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KENT ON SUNDAY

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER



GREAT HOLIDAY SAVINGS

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PLUS COUNTY HALL'S SUMMER GUIDE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

HIGH-SPEED SERVICE HIT BY LACK OF PASSENGERS

By MARIJKE COX

TRAIN bosses have been forced to remove 18 carriages from the celebrated high-speed rail link after it failed to generate enough demand from passengers.

The revelations – confirmed by Southeastern – will come as a bitter blow to politicians who hailed the new service a huge success after the full timetable was launched in December.

Although passenger demand had been high in some parts of the county, the north Kent line has remained unpopular, despite railway minister Chris Mole claiming in a debate earlier in the year that one-in-three journeys from that area were taken on High Speed 1 (HS1).

But this week it was revealed that three trains – each made up of six £1 million carriages – have been taken off the north Kent line due to lack of demand.

Southeastern admitted this was down to a slower uptake in the area, blaming the short length of time the service had been available.

A spokesman said: "North Kent didn't have a preview like other areas so it has it has only been running from there for four months.

"In Ashford, for example, the service has been running for almost a year."

He admitted the firm had to remove 18 carriages from the line to match the number of people using the service, but claimed the carriages are used on a rota basis.

Only six carriages are needed to accommodate passengers travelling from Broadstairs to St Pancras, which takes 93 minutes and stops at a number of stations including Birchington, Whitstable, the Medway towns and Ebbsfleet.

The spokesman added: "We regularly review the length of all 2,000 services we run

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



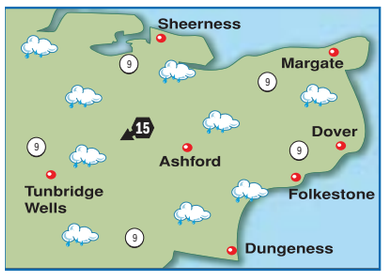
BBC bosses back down over Geoff's dismissal

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY



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Kent today



TODAY: A generally cloudy day with scattered showers, turning to longer spells of rain during the afternoon. Feeling cold in a fresh north-easterly wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Showers will die out to leave it dry but turning wet again towards dawn. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	8	46	London	showers	11	52
Belfast	fair	11	52	Liverpool	fair	11	52
Birmingham	rain	11	52	Manchester	fair	11	52
B'mouth	showers	11	52	Newcastle	fair	8	46
Bristol	rain	10	50	Norwich	drizzle	9	48
Cardiff	rain	12	54	Oxford	showers	10	50
Cork	cloudy	11	52	Southsea	showers	12	54
Edinburgh	cloudy	10	50	S'hampton	showers	11	52
Glasgow	fair	11	52	Southport	fair	11	52
Isle of Man	fair	11	52	Swansea	drizzle	10	50
Leeds	fair	8	46	Torquay	showers	11	52

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.25am	Sunset	8.21pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	12.17am	Moonset	7.43am	8.21pm to 5.23am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	02.01	6.4	14.21	6.3	02.42	6.2	15.02	6.1
Margate	03.02	4.7	15.16	4.5	03.42	4.5	15.54	4.3
St Mary's	07.51	5.2	20.10	5.2	08.30	4.9	20.51	5.0

Week ahead

monday Brighter later. max 13C min 2C

tuesday Mostly dry. max 14C min 4C

wednesday Sunny spells. max 14C min 4C

thursday Sunny spells. max 12C min 3C

friday Showers. max 14C min 3C

saturday Mostly dry. max 15C min 4C

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

every day and always look to match the length of trains to passenger demand."

When the new timetable was revealed in December, Southeastern said it would provide passengers with more than 200 extra trains per day and boost capacity by five per cent.

But rail users in north Kent soon found higher speeds were only used once the trains reached Ebbsfleet, meaning passengers had slower travel for the majority of the trip, despite paying around £8 extra per day.

Although Mr Mole claimed it was too early to judge the merits of the service, 2,000 angry passengers signed a petition set up by accounts manager Jon Nicholson, from Herne, calling for the reduced non-high-speed services to Victoria and Cannon Street to be fully reinstated.

Supporters of the campaign claimed the continuous delays and cancellations on the Southeastern service had led to problems in their professional and personal lives.

They also argued the reduced conventional services were overcrowded as people snubbed HS1.

North Thanet Tory election candidate Roger Gale backed the petition. He told Kent on Sunday he was furious with the way the service had been handled.

"No-one is using the high-speed train – it only travels at a high speed once it reaches Ebbsfleet, yet passengers are charged a lot more for using it," he said. "Commuters instead have to travel like cattle on the original services."

Mr Gale said many commuters have to walk five minutes to the tube station from St Pancras before catching a train to another part of London, adding up to 20 minutes to the journey.

He added: "The total extra cost for using the HS1 is around £13 including a Tube ticket. It's an absolute scandal.

"I would like to see – not in three years and not in months, but immediately – a cut in fares to reflect the poor standard of service, a return to sensible timetabling of trains to destinations that travellers wish to reach, an end to short-form trains and an end to skipping stations."

Officials at County Hall welcomed the HS1 and are planning major developments centred on the service, revealed in January by council leader Cllr Paul Carter and world-renowned architect Sir Terry Farrell.

But Cllr Nick Chard, cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, admitted there were always going to be winners and losers.

"What we are trying to do now is improve the service for places such as north Kent by working with Southeastern and user groups," he said.

"We have to be the honest broker and try and improve the service for everyone."

Vince Lucas, service delivery director at Southeastern, said an additional 4,000 passengers were using HS1.

He added: "Timetable changes, like the one we saw in December, take up to three years for all the positive benefits to be realised."

There are currently 29 high-speed trains, each formed by six or 12 carriages.

High-speed trains hit by shortage of passengers

Parties in battle over latest crime figures

By **MARIJKE COX**
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A LEADING Tory has called for police officers to be "set free" to do their jobs as minor crime falls across the county.

Statistics released by Kent Police last week showed a 12 per cent drop in crime – 14,855 fewer recorded incidents – in the past year.

Burglary offences fell by 8.4 per cent (1,124); total theft offences reduced by 7.6 per cent (2,206); and criminal damage dropped by 18.7 per cent (5,460).

While politicians from all parties were pleased with the drop, Tory candidate for North Thanet Roger Gale, a former special constable, said changes are still needed.

Mr Gale, who controversially called for capital punishment to be reinstated to deal with knife crime, said police were frustrated by the bureaucracy within their profession.

"It's all getting far too complicated," he said.

"Quite simply, there needs to be more visibility on the streets. Instead they spend much of their time doing paperwork, which is heavily duplicated. For example, a Stop form, which is just for stopping a person, not searching them, takes seven minutes to fill in. Or, if an officer arrests someone for being drunk and disorderly or for drink driving, this takes them off the beat for five hours.

"We need to set them free to do their jobs."

Mr Gale said the figures for Kent were relatively consistent, but violent crimes, antisocial behaviour, and drug and alcohol-related crimes were still prevalent.

He also echoed David Cameron's words that Britain had become a "broken society".

The Tory leader claimed violent crime was not falling nationally and that family breakdown must be tackled to help deal with the problem.

His comments were called "claptrap" by Home Secretary Alan Johnson, who claimed Mr Cameron was not telling the truth.

But Mr Gale said communities made up of broken homes were not healthy for society and violent crime was a cause for concern.

He also claimed the relaxation of licensing laws and cheap alcohol in supermarkets were fuelling the problem with young people drinking and causing trouble.

"Perception is everything," he said. "Visibility of police is so important. People need to feel safe. If they are scared to go out, streets are quiet and crime is more likely.

"It would be a lot better if a civilian clerk could deal with paperwork so officers can get back on the beat."

Paul Clark, Labour parliamentary candidate for Gillingham and Rainham, said there were more officers on patrol than ever before, with crime falling by 20 per cent since 1997.

"I'm particularly pleased Labour has bucked the trend of previous recessions where crime rose and instead consolidated the positive work of the last decade," he said.

"But I know there is still more to do, especially on tackling fear of crime."

Mr Clark said he wants to see firm action in areas with high antisocial behaviour and tougher measures brought in for Kent and Medway to deter future offenders.

Assistant Chief Constable Paul Brandon from Kent Police said the force was pleased to see a continuing fall in overall crime.

He added: "We will continue to work with our partner agencies to tackle crime and the impact of criminality on communities across the county."

• ***See pages 8-11 for full coverage of the countdown to election day.***

ELECTION 2010

Don't forget to pick up next weekend's paper for full coverage of all the county's election results.

We'll bring you comprehensive analysis of what the results mean for Kent, and election night reports from around the county.

And if you're staying up on election night go to kentnews.co.uk for results and news from the count as it happens.

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New agreement ends TV favourite's unfair dismissal action

Geoff back with BBC is good news for his fans

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

BBC bosses have backed down over popular presenter Geoff Clark after it was confirmed he is to make a sensational return to the corporation.

The former South East Today frontman was axed last June along with co-presenter Beverley Thompson.

Amid allegations he been taken off our screens due to his age, viewers deluged the BBC and local media calling for his reinstatement and criticising the decision.

But just days before Mr Clark was due to take his former bosses to an employment tribunal, it was confirmed the dispute was over and he would now be presenting the news on BBC Radio Kent and BBC Sussex.

The announcement came days after Mr Clark was persuaded to drop his claim for unfair dismissal after last-ditch talks with senior BBC managers.

Now, in an embarrassing climb-down for the corporation, Mr Clark, 63, will join its South East radio presentation team.

The former Meridian man will present news bulletins during weekends from June. This puts an end to a 10-month dispute which started when he and co-presenter Mrs Thompson were told they were being dropped from South East Today, just minutes after coming off the air last June.

Both were left "fuming and hurt" after their sacking, which stunned colleagues and viewers. In the wake of the decision union bosses voiced concern the pair were being removed because of their age.

BBC chiefs denied this, but after taking legal advice, Mr Clark filed a claim for unfair dismissal.

He left the corporation when his contract expired in October, and Mrs Thompson, who was allowed to remain with BBC South East in a different capacity, decided to leave of her own accord last September.

Rob Smith and Polly Evans – both in their thirties – became the new faces of the programme – which runs after the 6pm national news every weekday.

Pleased

BBC South East said in a statement: "Geoff Clark and the BBC have settled all remaining issues following his departure from South East Today last autumn.

"The BBC is pleased to announce that Geoff is joining the South East region's radio team. Radio Kent and BBC Sussex listeners will have a pleasant surprise in store as Geoff takes up a leading role in our weekend schedule from June."

Mick Rawsthorne, head of region, said: "We very much look forward to working with Geoff again and making use of his considerable broadcasting talents, and we know our audiences will wish him the best of luck with these new projects."

Mr Clark also released a statement saying: "I am so pleased to say that all this is behind us and I'm really looking forward to a new career in BBC radio."

Neither party was available for further comment this week.



SOUNDS FAMILIAR: Geoff Clark is returning to the BBC as a radio newsreader

Cancer drug mum wins cash appeal

A TERMINALLY ill mother refused funding for medication by the NHS has won her appeal against health chiefs.

Nikki Phelps, 37, from Luddesdown, near Gravesend, suffers from a rare form of cancer caused by genetic disorder multiple endocrine neoplasis, but was told by officials at NHS West Kent they would not pay for a drug recommended by her oncologist.

Health bosses said the drug, Sunitunib, which costs £36,000 per year, or £100 a day, was designed to fight kidney cancer and there was not enough evidence it would be effective on her.

But the mother-of-two and her husband, Bill, went ahead with the oncologist's advice and used £6,000 of their savings to pay for the drug – with positive results. Donations of £4,000 were also spent.

They were preparing to sell their £200,000 home to pay for the treatment, but NHS West Kent agreed to fund the drug after an appeal.

The trust also agreed to backdate its decision to February 1, repaying £9,000 the couple had spent.

To view, search 'cooking' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Kent Fire and Rescue Service has launched a new awareness campaign about the dangers of leaving cooking unattended in the home

Mann gets last-minute reprieve in Euro 2004 extradition fight

A FOOTBALL fan who lost his fight to avoid extradition to Portugal has been granted a last-minute injunction by the High Court.

Garry Mann, from Faversham, was to be sent to Albufeira on Wednesday, May 5, but the extradition date has been pushed back to at least Friday, May 7, so the High Court has more time to consider his case.

The former fireman was found guilty by a Portuguese court six years ago for being involved in a riot at Euro 2004 in Albufeira.

Mr Mann has always denied the charge, claiming he was only given five minutes with lawyers and had no real understanding because of poor quality translation.

But the 52-year-old was convicted within 48 hours of being arrested and agreed to be deported on the understanding he would not have to carry out a sentence.

Eighteen months ago, however, Portuguese authorities used the European extradition warrant system to summon him back to serve two years in prison, claiming he should have served his sentence in the UK.

Despite efforts by his lawyers, an appeal for bail was rejected by the European Court of Human Rights this week and he was to be extradited to Portugal, facing a two-year jail term. But the latest development means new hope for his case.



GARRY MANN: Portugal arrest

The father-of-six said he was angry at the way he had been treated.

He said: "The last 18 months have been hell. I love my country, but my faith in the justice system has gone. I relied on it to do the right thing and stick by me, but I've been hung out to dry."

Jago Russell, chief executive of Fair Trials International, said the High Court's decision means lawyers can continue their fight.

He added: "We hope the High Court will take this opportunity to deliver justice and stop Garry Mann being torn from his family and flown to Portugal to serve a two-year prison sentence."

THE British ambassador of Pope Benedict XVI is attending the 100th anniversary celebrations of a Catholic parish.

Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Faustino Sainz Munoz will take part in the Sunday service at Westgate's St Peter's Catholic Church, in June.

Father John Slater said: "We're very pleased. The visit was quite unexpected but we're looking forward to it."

KUNG-FU fighters broke the world record for the longest ever martial arts class by training for more than 29 hours.

More than 30 members of the Julian Hitch Martial Art Schools of Excellence in Bromley took part – including one who was hit by a car just two days earlier. Some were also caught up in travel problems caused by the Iceland volcano and were unable to fully prepare. Last weekend's efforts beat the previous record by more than three hours.

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Having the La last laugh

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Writer strikes comedy gold in Hollywood

AWARD-winning comedy writer Liam Woodman has returned to Kent after playing his part in the ongoing British invasion of Hollywood.

Having previously worked on home soil with shows including My Family and 8 Out of 10 Cats, the 33-year-old from Maidstone decided to follow in the footsteps of fellow comics like Ricky Gervais and Russell Brand by successfully cracking America.

And with his newest creation La La Land receiving rave reviews in the States, Woodman told KoS Media he was confident it would become popular among British viewers.

"There's definitely an influx of British talent in America," he said. "It was probably started by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant with The Office, and now they're hungry for British talent to go over there and do their thing.

"We came up with the idea for La La Land in this country but there was a bit of American interest in [comedy partner/actor] Mark Wootton, so we were invited over to pitch our idea and it just grew from there.

"People think Americans don't have the same sense of irony we do, but that's changed now and they embrace it. They love the show.

"Hollywood is often seen as some unearthly place only a few people will ever get to, so to have experienced it so early in my career is just amazing."

Woodman grew up in Hampshire and went to school with Mark Wootton, who plays all three of the oddball characters featured in La La Land.

These include the morally-corrupt documentary maker Brendan Allen, the disgraced psychic medium Shirley Ghostman, and the taxi driver-cum-action hero Gary Garner.

But it is the unwitting members of the public who are the real stars of the show, which started on BBC Three on Tuesday.

"I was always considered to be funny at school," said Woodman. "And I was always happy to get up in front of class or in assembly to do comedy routines.

"But I don't think I followed the normal career path because I went away to get a proper job as a recruitment consultant and then came back further down the line.

"Mark and I used to do wind-ups at school and it was in 2001 that he came to me and asked if I wanted to help him with a theatre group he was starting up. I did, and we ended up winning the BBC Two Green Light award for Cyderdelic, and it hasn't really stopped since then.

"Sometimes when people get older they tend to limit their aspirations, but these past few years have taught me that anything is possible."

Together Woodman and Wootton have written a string of successful comedy shows, including Channel 4's My New Best Friend and BBC Three's Mark Wootton Exposed, and High Spirits with Shirley Ghostman.

And when not working on his own projects, Woodman writes for such shows as Lee Mack's Not Going Out and Russell Howard's Good News.

But he told KOS Media his current priority was making La La Land a success.

"Hopefully we'll be able to make a second series because we have lots of new ideas and new characters to hit the streets with," he said.

"But on a personal level I have a meeting with some executives this week who I can pitch some ideas to, and hopefully somebody will like one of them. Then that should keep me busy for a while."





BREAKING AMERICA: Liam Woodman is making it big in the USA with La La Land (right) – he has also written for hit UK comedy shows including 8 Out of Cats, and My Family

This song's for Roo

PROFESSIONAL musician Trevor Osborne hopes it will be back of the net for his new World Cup song, once some legal tangles over samples are finalised.

Trevor, from Ashford, said trouble kicked off when he used some crowd cheering audio from a DVD.

If the permissions issue is tackled without a penalty, the song will be available for download before the first whistle of the World Cup on June 11.

If not, he may have to admit defeat.

He said: "It is a good catchy football song. It's called Go Win For England and will be put out by the Welsh record company that launched Duffy's career.

"I am confident it could be a big hit, but we need to sort out the difficulties with the crowd cheering sounds before it is uploaded to sites like iTunes and Amazon."

For the past decade, Trevor has been playing his guitar and performing his original songs for people in residential homes, but he hopes for more stardom once his World Cup ditty is released.

The 48-year-old said he wants to run with the ball if it hits the charts, and added: "It would be great if this does become a big success and it could open some doors for me.

"I have some contact with a recoding studio in Southampton and they put it together, and even got in touch with the record label in Anglesey.

"The song was originally something quite different, but a friend heard it and suggested it could be a great football song, so I switched some bits around and it turned out really well."

The Spurs supporter added there's no substitute for online exposure. He said of his trophy song: "By releasing it as a download, we will be available to so many more people."

Bev Jones from Awen Records said: "As soon as all the permissions have been organised, we will release this record straight away online.

"It is catchy and had a bit of a sixties sound to it. We are delighted to have taken this one on. I am confident it will be a great success."





Picture: DOUG HARMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

SCORE: Striker Wayne Rooney is getting the musical support of Trevor Osborne

It could be you

A PUNTER who bought a Lottery ticket in Gillingham has yet to claim their £195,156 winnings.

The ticket for the draw on Wednesday, April 14, matched five numbers and the bonus ball. The winning Lotto numbers on that date were 2, 6, 8, 23, 44, 46 and the bonus ball was 37.

'World's worst'

A TENNIS pro has lost his libel action over a newspaper claim that he was the "world's worst".

Robert Dee, 23, from Bexley, took the case over a story in the Daily Telegraph in 2008.

He said it could blight his potential future career as a tennis coach.

But High Court judge Mrs Justice Sharp said: "The claimant is a professional player who did indeed lose 54 consecutive matches in tournaments on the international professional circuit during which he did not win one set."

To see this clip search 'Hewer' @yourkenttv.co.uk



Julie Maddocks meets Sir Alan Sugar's right hand in The Apprentice Nick Hewer, at the Kent 2020 Vision business show



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PANDORA
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Awoken by Gordon and Jack's May Day revival

THIS weekend, Gordon Newton will be up with the larks to celebrate May Day in traditional style.

At dawn on Saturday, he will be heading to Blue Bell Hill in Chatham for the time-honoured Jack-in-the-Green awakening ceremony, the official start of the Rochester Sweeps Festival.

The fun continues until Bank Holiday Monday with a busy programme of folk music, morris dancing and family activities.

By day, Newton, 61, runs a stonemasonry business in East Farleigh, but he is also the founder and organiser of a number of events, including the Faversham Hop Festival.

Thirty years ago, he came across a story about a sweeps festival and decided to reinstate the old tradition in a modern world.

"It seemed like a good idea at the time," he said, with a laugh. "It's a piece of living history. It was a tradition upheld by the chimney sweeps of Rochester for hundreds of years. I stumbled across an article in Sketches by Boz, by Charles Dickens.



"He wrote about a sweeps' procession and described the characters, so it gave us an idea of what went on."

Traditionally, sweeps would be given a holiday on May 1 and to celebrate would hold a procession and invite Jack-in-the-Green – a 7ft tall mythical character covered in green foliage – to join their parade.

When the Climbing Boys Act of 1868 made it illegal to send young boys up chimneys, the ritual gradually began to die out.

Picture: SIMON KELSEY



NEW BROOM: Gordon Newton, inset left, has seen the Sweeps Festival flourish

When Newton revived the tradition, it started on a small scale, but is now an established part of Kent's May Day celebrations.

"I've put half my life into this; I was a young man when it started. It has gone from being a tiny commemoration of a tradition to a huge international event," Newton said.

"It was quite small and gradually developed. I funded it myself for six years and then Medway Council got involved and put money into it."

This year, the folk acts performing include BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winners Bellowhead and Cara Dillon.

"They see this as a very high-profile event and it's the largest gathering of morris dancers in the world," Newton said.

"It's also the largest traditional May Day celebration in Europe. It's known as the 'friendly festival', because people are friendly and happy, usually. It's May and summer is coming."

Newton also sees the Sweeps Festival as a chance to both keep English traditions alive and bring a multinational community together.



SIGN OF SPRING: Jack-in-the-Green

"We assimilate lots of other traditions that are brought here by migrants, but what we do is strictly English. It does not appear in Wales, Scotland or Ireland.

"Going out with the Jack-in-the-Green is very much a piece of Englishness. On Monday, there are all sorts of nationalities joining in the procession and they all take part because they enjoy it.

"It's a huge community event that is very good at what it achieves."

• ***To find out more about the event, just click on the website www.whatsonmedway.co.uk/sweepsfestival.***

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Police refuse to reveal how 14 sex offenders vanished

FOURTEEN sex offenders are 'missing' in Kent despite police insisting they closely monitor abusers.

The county's force was exposed this week as one of the UK's constabularies with the highest number of missing sex offenders in its area.

Offenders released from jail on licence, or who are on the sex offenders register, are obliged to inform the authorities where they live – but police do not know where the missing ones are.

Kent Police was fourth behind Greater Manchester (15), West Midlands (30) and the Metropolitan Police (128).

Although the force would not reveal the sex crimes of the offenders, it admitted seven are high risk, six are medium and one is low risk.

Det Supt Maria Shepherd, head of Kent Police's public protection unit, insisted they closely monitor the behaviour and risk posed to the public by sexual and violent criminals who have been released from prison on licence.

She stressed that people on the sex offenders register living in Kent are closely monitored through the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), which is made up of partners including the probation and prison services.

Det Supt Shepherd said: "Protecting the people of Kent is our priority.

"We work with our partners to use all the resources available to us in order to best manage violent and sex offenders in Kent, helping to keep our communities safe. We will also work closely with other forces, in the UK and abroad, to ensure the law is upheld."

By **MARIJKE COX**
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The force declined to say how the 14 were able to fall off the radar, or the kind of work being carried out to find them.

Det Supt Shepherd added: "Kent Police holds public protection at the heart of its business. Our joint police and probation public protection team operates as a centre of excellence working closely with our MAPPA partners."

Malcolm Gilbert from Family Matters, which helps victims of sexual abuse, said every case, regardless of how high or low risk the offender is deemed, is important.

Investigations

"Firstly, this is a big worry to people who have been abused – it may lead them to think that these sorts of crimes are not being taken seriously," he said.

"Secondly, if an abuser is to go missing, this causes massive trauma to their victim.

"I'm aware that sex offenders in the area do go missing and this is a great worry to us. Of course, we want to know that people are safeguarded."

Mr Gilbert said the charity, which is based in Gravesend, works closely with Kent Police in terms of sexual violence and with victims at the centre of criminal investigations.

"The police will have a system of monitoring these offenders although we know nothing about that," he said.

"I have no knowledge of how they keep tabs on these people or how they look for them. Maybe there are inefficiencies in the system which had led to some going missing, I just don't know.

"The main concern for us is that the victims should be able to move on and are not caused deep trauma should their abuser go missing from the system."

Figures from 2009, showed there were 1,093 sex offenders in Kent and Medway, around 68 per 100,000 head of population.

Snappers delight

KENT Wildlife Trust has called on snappers to capture the beauty of the countryside, coast and wildlife through the lens, by taking part in its 2010 Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

The competition is open to amateurs and professionals alike, and there are four categories: fauna; flora; landscape, coastline and people; and junior (up to 17 years old).

All photos must be taken on Trust nature reserves, apart from coastline photographs which can be taken anywhere in Kent.

Winners will have their photos published in the Trust's magazine, Wild Kent and exhibited at its visitor centres.

The competition closes on July 30.

An entry form can be downloaded from www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk, call Kent Wildlife Trust on 01622 662012 or email ray.lewis@kentwildlife.org.uk for a copy.

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GENERAL ELECTION MAY 6, 2010 Polling expert believes Clegg will

It's time for tactics say our politicians

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

VOTERS are being urged to think tactically when considering whose name to place their cross next to come polling day.

According to several Kent politicians, it is sometimes best to choose a party you wouldn't normally vote for in order to hamper the chances of another.

The issue was thrust into the spotlight last week when former Medway mayor Dai Liyanage quit the Liberal Democrats after being suspended for publicly supporting a Labour election candidate.

Mr Liyanage told KOS Media that while he still considers himself a Liberal, he will be voting for Paul Clark in Gillingham and Rainham because he does not want to see the Tories' Rehman Chishti enter Parliament.

He said: "I think Paul has been a very good MP since 1997 but I feel that if I vote Lib Dem then Chishti will get in. That's the only way to stop the Tories winning the seat.

"Jonathan Shaw (Labour candidate for Chatham and Aylesford) has also been very good and I would do the same for him.




WHO WILL WIN?: Labour's Paul Clark (left) and Tory Rehman Chishti (right)

"I absolutely do not support Labour on a national basis. I'm still a Liberal and have been for 45 years, but I'm afraid there's no way the Lib Dems can win in Gillingham, so sadly I've had to resort to tactical voting."

Ironically, one of the reasons Mr Liyanage does not want to see the Conservatives win in his constituency is because Mr Chishti was previously a Labour councillor in Medway, and even a former researcher for Mr Clark.

But Mr Liyanage stressed that tactical voting was not always about voting Labour over the Conservatives or vice-versa.

He said: "I think the Liberal Democrat candidate in Maidstone, Peter Carroll, has a lot of support and has a better chance of winning than the Labour candidate (Rav Seeruthun).

"He's a very good man and I'd like to see him become an MP, so perhaps Labour supporters should vote for him if they don't want the Tories to get in."

Last month UKIP leader Lord Pearson convinced Rochester and Strood candidate Robin Johnson to give up his election dream and instead urge residents to vote for the Euro-sceptic Tory candidate Gordon Henderson.

He also caused a stir this week when he went behind the back of UKIP candidates in Somerset to tell residents to vote for the Conservatives instead.

Lord Pearson told KOS Media last month: "We don't want to stand against politicians who share our main goals. That's why we are actively supporting the Conservative candidate Mark Reckless in Rochester and Strood, by putting up billboards and actually asking people to vote for him."

On Friday Lord Pearson visited Cuxton to give his party's backing to Mr Reckless.

Former SDP-Liberal Alliance MP for Croydon North West, Bill Pitt, has been a member of the Labour Party for more than a decade and is supporting South Thanet candidate Stephen Ladyman's re-election campaign.

He said: "In South Thanet the Lib Dem candidate (Peter Bucklitsch) is very worthy but he doesn't stand a chance of winning. He may well poll a reasonable percentage of the vote, but those votes may well be wasted."

First-time voter priorities

EDUCATION and employment are top of the list of priorities for young people – but more needs to be done to teach them about politics.

That's the message from representatives of Kent Youth County Council (KYCC), who met as part of the UK Youth Parliament at County Hall last week to discuss their campaigns.

And despite being a non-political organisation, some of KYCC's 48 elected members have just turned 18 and will be voting for the first time.

Chris Collins, who represents Swale on the council, said they will relish the opportunity to choose who will lead the country.

"I've always wanted to go out and vote," he said. "There are people out there who won't, however, and I don't think it's anyone's place to say they have to."

Firmly against the idea of compulsory voting, the 18-year-old said pushing someone to do something against their will could turn some against politics." he said.

Chris has been a member of KYCC for four years and is also a deputy member of the UK Youth Parliament.

The council looks at issues such as transport and activities for young people, and members are also pushing for voting age to be lowered to 16.

Chris said: "In some aspects my experience on the council has given me a better understanding of politics. But for some first-time voters it may be harder. It's not that young people don't know about politics, it's just not taught very comprehensively at school."

Chris said scrapping of university fees; political education and employment are high on the agenda for young people.

"Getting rid of tuition fees is something I believe is very important. I also want to know that when I leave university there will be jobs available," he said.

Candidate arrest

A LABOUR parliamentary candidate has been arrested on suspicion of drink-driving after crashing her car.

Kathryn Smith, who is standing in the general election for the Gravesham seat, was cut from her car and breathalysed at the scene in University Way, Dartford, after the incident, which happened at 10pm on Monday.

She was taken to hospital, but was said to have discharged herself early on Tuesday morning.

A Kent Police spokesman confirmed a 49-year-old woman had been arrested and bailed to July 10 on suspicion of drink-driving.

One vehicle was involved in the collision.

Ms Smith is fighting to wrestle the seat from Tory candidate Adam Holloway.

Tory helps Ukip

A LONG-serving former Conservative MP has been helping the UK Independence Party with its election campaign.

World War Two veteran Sir John Wells served as Maidstone's MP for 28 years between 1959-87, and when he retired he was succeeded by fellow Tory Ann Widdecombe.

However, according to former Ukip leader Nigel Farage – who lives in Bromley and is running for election in Buckingham – the 85-year-old has been helping deliver leaflets for the Euro-sceptic party to voters.

NEARLY two-thirds of people who voted in a kentnews.co.uk online poll are "considering voting for the Lib Dems on May 6".

Of the 631 who voted, 62 per cent might mark their mark for Nick Clegg's party, while 235 people (38 per cent) are not considering backing the Lib Dems.



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be kingmaker, but firms hope for a clear election result – possibly from tactical voting

Businesses voice their fears over economic 'uncertainty' in a hung Parliament

A HUNG Parliament with no party in overall control could be a disaster for Kent businesses.

That's the view of one major Chamber of Commerce covering a large slice of the county.

Businesses say the last thing they need at the moment is more dithering from Whitehall over what it plans to do to continue the long path out of recession.

The British Chambers of Commerce quizzed 300 small companies and discovered 65 per cent of them are either 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about the prospect of no clear winner.

Market confidence

Just 13 per cent believed a House of Commons with no-one in overall control was a good thing. And many fear VAT may be a target soon after the ink on MPs' declarations has dried.

The Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce covers Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, and Tunbridge Wells.

Chairman Richard Lavender told KOS Media: "The business view expressed by Chamber members is made up from several factors.

"These include financial market confidence, whereby the money supply is not being released to support businesses until a Government is in place with a mandate to move the country out of recession.

"This unfortunately is going to be painful whichever party is elected. However we need to know what strategy is to be applied and get on to meet the challenge head on. Is there to be an increase in National Insurance, or is it to be VAT, or is it to be public service reductions?

"At the moment it could be any of these, or all three. However it is us, the business community, that will have to pick it up and run with it.

"So at the moment we are all playing a waiting game and trying to make contingency plans for any, or all these scenarios.

"UK Ltd is in a mess, we all know that. With the world recession Government has been using a sticking plaster approach with the economy and would appear to have no clear defined strategy and this could be because they have either run out of time, ideas, or just plain do not have a long-term strategy.

"So a 'hung Parliament', what would that mean to us? Continued uncertainty with the possibility of another election.

"Rising prices, rising VAT, rising National Insurance. All these may well be delayed whilst the in-house fighting continues with personal agendas between the parties to see who does what and when.

"The business community will get behind a Government that has a clear defined mandate given by the electorate.

Move forward

"However, and it is a big however, we need a Government to listen, we need a seat at the table and together we will move forward."

Andrew Aves, regional organiser for the Kent and Medway branch of the Federation for Small Businesses said: "FSB does not have an official comment on this issue."

Asked why that was, he replied: "I understand the BCC conducted research for their position, the FSB has not asked this question of its members and we only have anecdotal remarks."

'Clegg will hold balance of power'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

POLLING expert Sir Robert Worcester has predicted it is "highly likely" the UK will experience its first hung Parliament since 1974.

The Maidstone-based founder of the MORI research group told KOS Media the surge in popularity for Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg had made it almost impossible for either the Tories or Labour to win an absolute majority.

If a hung Parliament is to be avoided, either Labour will have to improve significantly in the polls or the Conservatives will have to achieve one of the biggest electoral swings ever seen.

Sir Robert said: "A hung Parliament is highly likely. The wild card in this election was the leaders' debate, which was a real shock to the system.

"In an average of 15 polls afterwards, Clegg went up about nine points. The budget didn't change anything before and the second debate didn't change much either, so we're still in hung Parliament territory.

"A week is a long time in politics, but it's highly unlikely either Labour or the Conservatives will improve enough before the election."

In the event of a hung Parliament it is likely Mr Clegg will hold the balance of power and have to decide which of the other main parties to form a coalition government with.

Sir Robert said there was a sense the Lib Dems would rather do a deal with Labour than the Tories, but the issue of Gordon Brown's leadership – who could remain Prime Minister even if Labour finish third in the vote – could be a sticking point.



PREDICTIONS: Polling Expert Sir Robert Worcester says a hung Parliament is likely

"Would he be willing to stand down and would the public stand for it if he didn't?" he asked. "At the moment it's a lottery in the hands of one man, and that's Nick Clegg."

The last time the results of a General Election resulted in a hung Parliament was in 1974, when Conservative leader Edward Heath was Prime Minister.

Heath remained at Number 10 despite Labour having won more seats in the Commons, but was forced to resign just four days later when he was unable to broker a deal with then-Liberal Party leader Jeremy Thorpe.

One of the promises Mr Thorpe wanted was for a proportional representation voting system – a demand that was turned down then but is now more likely to be granted if Mr Clegg holds the balance of power this time round.

Former UKIP leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Bromley, described the current first-past-the-post system as "desperately outdated".

He added: "A lot of people tell us they love what we stand for but that they find it difficult to vote for us under the current system. Just look at how many votes we received in the European elections.

"If I'm elected this week (in Buckingham) and in the unlikely event that one party wants my support in a coalition government, then in return I would want a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty that the public was promised but has been so cruelly denied."



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GENERAL ELECTION MAY 6, 2010 Independent candidates are

Independents' day

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

INDEPENDENT candidates say the recent surge in popularity for the Lib Dems has also strengthened their own election chances.

Far from being concerned that Nick Clegg's party will steal the majority of protest votes away from them, those standing alone in Kent believe the growing interest in politics generally bodes well for them come polling day.

Gordon Bryan is one of two independents standing in the super-marginal Gillingham and Rainham seat, and told KOS Media he was encouraged by the Lib Dem surge.

"I think it helps the chances of independents because it puts in the voters' minds that a vote for the Lib Dems is not a wasted vote," he said.

"That was always the concern before, and Labour and the Tories liked it that way.

"Suddenly now people realise that voting Lib Dem could get them elected, and that helps independents like us because then they realise they can help anyone get elected."





IN THE RUNNING?: Alice Sakura-Dartnell (left); and George Meegan

Mr Bryan said that if successful on Thursday he will allow residents a referendum on every issue he is asked to vote on in the House of Commons – a system that would inevitably create conflict with party whips if taken up by a non-independent MP.

Gravesham candidate Alice Sakura-Dartnell, 23, agrees that the public are now more open to opposing the two main parties.

She said: "Independents are a lot more accountable to the public.

"With political parties, if something goes wrong then the MP has the face of the party to hide behind and they can blame someone else.

"We wouldn't have that. If something went wrong then the buck would stop with me.

"If anything, since the first leaders' debate it's been a little easier for me to gain support because it's heightened the interest in politics, and that's always a good thing."

Up until Parliament was dissolved last month, just two men – Dr Richard Taylor (Wyre Forest) and Dai Davies (Blaenau Gwent) – sat in the House of Commons having been elected as independent MPs.

Environmental campaigner David Plumstead, 71, would like to follow in their footsteps by winning the Folkestone and Hythe seat, but admits he "doesn't have a clue" how things will turn out.

He said: "People's minds aren't made up yet, but one of the things I constantly reiterate is that they should vote for the quality of the candidate and not the party.

"It's local democracy that sets the tone for what goes on in Westminster, so people should take the attributes, qualities and backgrounds of every candidate.

"It's very difficult to tell how well I'm going to do. I seem to be in tune with what a lot of local people want, but at the end of the day it's up to them."

Political experts believe that the surge in popularity for the Lib Dems has increased the chances of a hung Parliament.

Another Gillingham and Rainham independent candidate, George Meegan, believes a replacement system based on proportional representation will only be a good thing for people like him.

He said: "There's nothing wrong with any of the main political parties – it's not as if they're extremists or anything.

"But their MPs are part of a political machine that will destroy them if they don't toe the party line. It's a nasty system."

Parties row over St George's Day

A COUNCIL leader accused of scrapping St George's Day has blasted those behind the claims as being "BNP-lite".

Local members of the English Democrats said Conservative-run Dartford council banned its employees from celebrating last Friday's event because it did not want voters to support the right-wing party.

However, council leader Cllr Jeremy Kite has described the claims as "ridiculous" and said members of staff took part in a parade through the town centre.

Detest

He added: "We do have a slight difficulty in that the English Democrats have taken the St George's Cross as their symbol, so our employees do have to be careful they are not handing things out that could be taken to be political.

"In the past, Tibby [Dartford English Democrats chairman Mike Tibby] and the others have come down to the town during St George's Day to hand out leaflets and flags, so the only advice given to staff is that they should be cautious of that.

"I don't think Tibby liked that we had cottoned onto his plan. I'm afraid his party is just BNP-lite, and quite frankly I detest everything he stands for."

Mr Tibby had claimed the council banned St George's Day because the English Democrats candidate Gary Rogers was "racing ahead" in the election stakes.

He added: "Doesn't this just show you that the Conservative council is far more interested in playing politics than looking after the needs and wants of its citizens?"

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enjoying a rise in support, while Dartford crossing tolls are taxing would-be MPs

So, which party is ahead in the tolls?

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

LONG-running campaigns by parliamentary hopefuls to scrap the controversial Dartford tolls have been undermined by their parties leaders.

Tory Gareth Johnson and Liberal Democrat James Willis, both contesting the Dartford seat, admitted to KOS Media they would have to fight their own parties on the issue should they get into power.

It followed David Cameron's announcement he could not guarantee the crossing would remain under government ownership should the Tories win the election.

And the Lib Dem manifesto mentions borrowing against the public asset. In both cases it would mean the £1.50 tolls – which generate more than £60 million for the Treasury each year – would stay.

All three main parties see income generation from the crossing as a way to help reduce the crippling national debt.

While Mr Willis maintained the Lib Dems would never sell off the crossing, he admitted the tolls would be in place for at least another three to five years, should his party win and borrow against the asset.

"The crossing would be like a guarantor and so, yes, the tolls would be in place for the short-term. But after three to five years I would push to get them removed," he said.

Disgrace

"The fact that these tolls should have stopped in 2003 and didn't is a disgrace. It is failing the local residents who have to deal with the congestion caused by vehicles stopping to pay."

Tory Mr Johnson, who is also vying for the Dartford seat held by former Labour MP Howard Stoate, who is standing down, also vowed to fight the charges – despite the admission by Mr Cameron that should his party win the election, the crossing might be privatised.

Mr Johnson said: "If the crossing is sold off it would make it almost impossible to scrap the tolls. A private company could even increase them if it wanted to.

"The Conservatives have made it clear a sale would not be definite and they do not want to sell the crossing. Whatever happens I will not stop my campaign to scrap these tolls."

Mr Willis launched a campaign called Toot if you Give a Hoot, in March, where 5,000 motorists sounded their horns in protest to the proposed sale of the crossing. Another protest was held on Friday.

The Lib Dem candidate also started an internet petition as part of his campaign.

The Dartford tunnel and Queen Elizabeth II bridge cross the Thames between Kent and Essex and carry about 150,000 vehicles a day.

Congestion caused by vehicles stopping to pay the tolls – which were meant to be scrapped once the construction bill was paid off in 2003 – has led to numerous campaigns.

Labour parliamentary candidate John Adams said should his party stay in power he would look to have a number plate recognition system put in – like that used for the congestion charge in London.

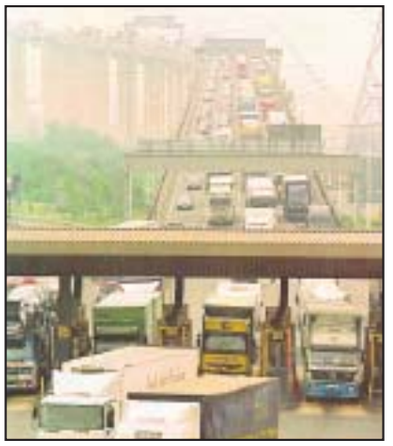
"Vehicles could then drive straight through, cutting traffic problems," he said.

"The toll is a big debate. It's not the money that bothers residents, as they get a heavy discount, it's the congestion."

Asked whether he supports his party's vow to privatise the crossing, Mr Adams said it was not the kind of asset Labour wanted to sell.

"In the plans there is an option for no change and I would push for that. I don't think it should be privatised," he said.

"But should it be sold, the money made from it should be ring-fenced specifically for Kent."



CONGESTED: Bridge at Dartford crossing

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Horse sanctuary gets global aid in bid to stay open

By **MARIJKE COX**

A CAMPAIGN to save more than 50 sick and abused horses from slaughter has gone international – with support flooding in from across the globe.

It follows an appeal by X Factor star Leona Lewis who pleaded with the public to help raise vital funds needed to stop the closure of the Horse Refuge in Wittersham, near Tenterden.

Owners Sara and Alan Ross were told they must raise £600,000 to buy Dobbells Farm, where the sanctuary is housed, or face eviction at the end of April.

The 56 horses, which are too traumatised or sick to travel, would have to be shot.

Mrs Ross said donations from as far away as America have been flooding in, but the pressure is still on. Having missed the deadline for payment, she said she will have to sit in at the farm and wait for the bailiffs to come.

But the animal lover, who founded the refuge in 1995, said she would rather be shot herself than see any of the horses die.

"Over my dead body will any of these animals be put down," she said. "I'm not even thinking about that, I can't, but we can't continue this way forever. I have to focus on raising this money. I'm feeling more positive though, I've had phone calls every day from people across the UK offering to help. People in America have also sent money – it's amazing. It seems to have snowballed."

Mrs Ross said she is unsure exactly how much money has been raised, but on the last count several months ago the figure was £215,000 – £385,000 off the target.

"I'm going to sit tight and wait for the donations to come in and then we'll see whether we have enough," she said.

"It's not as simple as just going to another farm – these horses just can't travel."



TALL ORDER: Sara Ross with Duke, the tallest horse in Europe

Britain's Got Talent judge Simon Cowell has been backing the campaign and also donated an undisclosed amount.

Other celebrities, including Paul McCartney's daughter Heather and actress Jenny Seagrove, have been fighting to help stop the closure.

The former Beatles' late wife Linda was an animal lover and her horse currently lives at the refuge.

The sanctuary is also home to Duke, the tallest horse in Europe, which will almost certainly be put down if the money is not raised, due to a leg injury.

Mrs Ross said: "I have to absolutely thank all the people who have helped so far with donations and called me up to offer their support. I want to thank KOS Media readers too, who have supported us from the start. All we need now is one more push and we can do this."

To donate visit www.thehorserefuge.org or call 01797 270555.

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Supermarket giant's £300m scheme to build 'Tescoville' village of 1,000 homes

ECONOMISTS fear the South East could become 'Tescoville' as the supermarket chain continues its reign of dominance – this time in the housing market, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Not content with selling just food and homeware, the company – which saw record profits of £3.4 billion last year – is now building houses and leisure facilities to go with them.

And the retail giant has its eyes on the South East, with Dartford one of its main targets. There are plans to construct a new 120,000 sq ft Tesco, plus almost 1,000 homes, shops and cafés in the Lowfield Street area.

The £300m scheme is one of four developments planned for the region, in what are being dubbed 'mini-villages'. Along with Dartford, Tesco projects are being outlined for Woolwich, Streatham and Bromley-by-Bow.

Similar schemes have already been created in areas such as Kensington, Clapham and Orpington, where the retailer marketed and built the development.

A spokeswoman at Dartford Borough Council, which has been in discussions with Tesco, said a formal planning application had not yet been submitted, but plans had been put forward.

Tesco is hoping to create what bosses are calling 'mixed-use developments' with leisure facilities. In other areas of the country, schools have been incorporated into the constructions.

A spokesman from Tesco said: "In terms of Dartford we have been working with the council about what the development will look like.

"These constructions are not new ideas – there was one built in Clapham seven years ago – and we don't always build them all ourselves. We work with partners on the developments."

He said the company looks at each project on a site-by-site basis to decide what facilities would be incorporated around the supermarket.

"If you look at a place like Dartford this could create thousands of jobs and attract investment by big companies," he added.

But critics are wary the chain – the richest in Britain – will dominate the region with access to more personal information than the government through the number of services it provides. As well as a legal firm dealing with house purchases and sales, the company offers an online estate agent, a bank which provides mortgages, plus an insurance firm.

Andrew Simms, policy director of independent think-tank the New Economics Foundation and author of Tescopoly, said the size and influence the chain has over consumers and the market leaves little room for competition.

"Tesco has planned a grave new world where we live in their houses, shop in their stores, use their banks and mobile phones, buy their insurance and go on their holidays," he said.

"Welcome to Tescoville – our very own version of The Truman Show.

"Unless our regulators act to keep the market open, they might as well re-brand the UK as a supermarket subsidiary."

But where critics are against such influence, Dartford Borough Council is welcoming the plans. Cllr Jeremy Kite, Tory leader of the council, said the proposals are about regeneration of the whole area, not just the Tesco store.

Sir gives eco-warning

"KENT is very vulnerable", according to Sir Crispin Tickell, one of the world's leading experts on climate change and environmental issues.

He was speaking at Protect Kent's Energy Conference last week held at Pines Calyx in St Margaret's Bay, near Dover, and attended by more than 80 delegates.

Protect Kent deputy director Sean Furey said: "Our conference highlighted that there is still a long way to go to 'keep the lights on' in Kent.

"The main outcome was the evident need to invest in research and development in all forms of energy generation and storage – there is definitely no 'silver bullet' answer to the question of energy security."

Tee-time event

THE Hookers and Hackers charity is holding its third annual Golf Day at Hever Castle Golf Club in Edenbridge, to raise money for Hospice in the Weald.

There is limited availability for spaces – entry for a team of four costs £240 – and any player to get a hole-in-one on the eighth will win £5,000.

There are also other prizes to be won at the event on May 14, and the charity is looking for raffle prizes and sponsorship donations.

For more information call 07985 142 649 or see www.thehookersandhackers.co.uk.

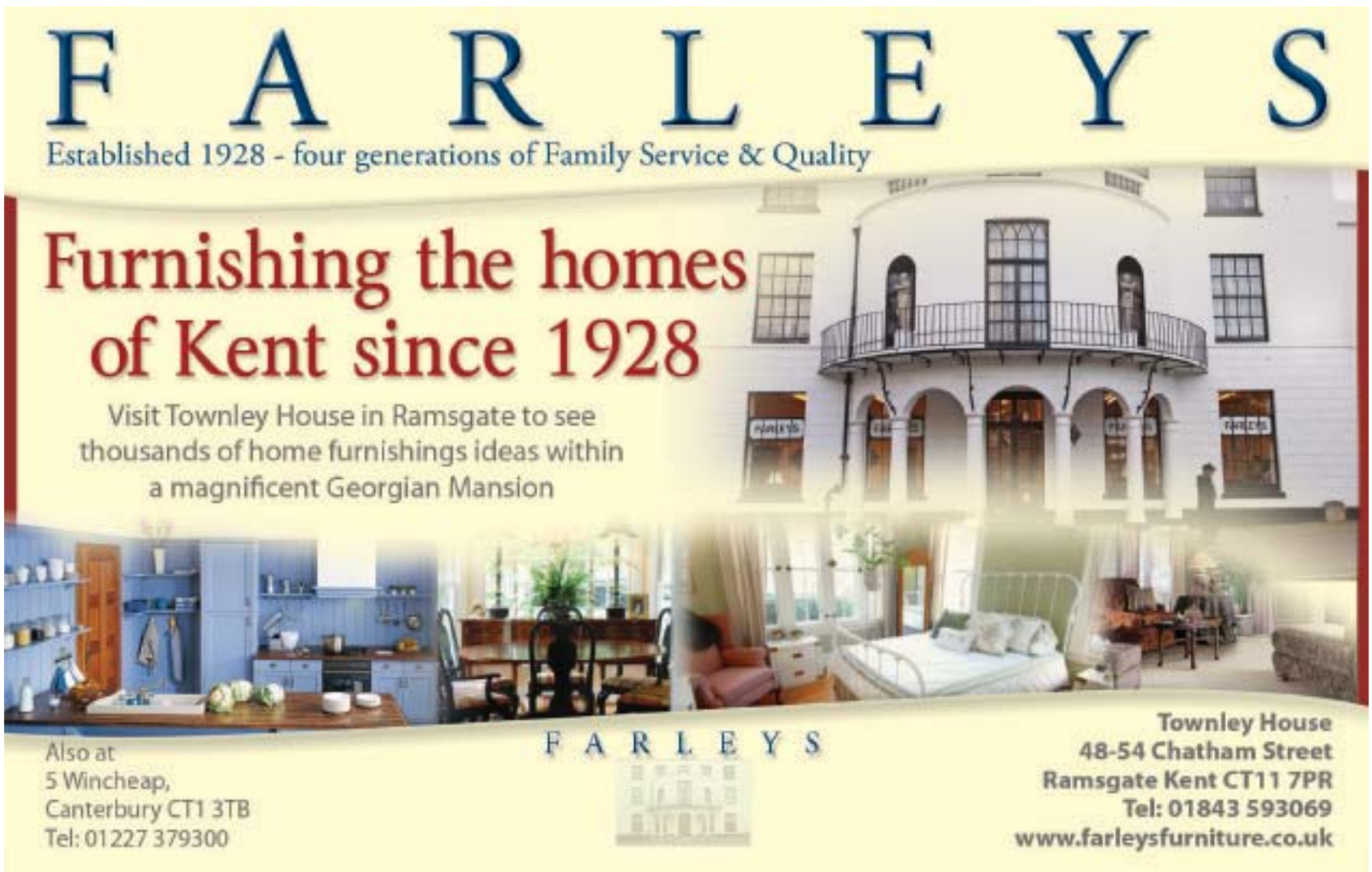
Guilty pedigree chump

A BENEFIT cheat stole almost £14,000 from taxpayers to buy expensive holidays and cars – despite running her own business.

Caroline Lawrence, of Douglas Road, Lenham, had claimed the cash from Maidstone council since 1993, through council tax and housing benefits after declaring herself unemployed.

The 44-year-old was caught when officials discovered she was breeding pedigree puppies for a living. The married mother-of-five had squandered away thousands from the business on flash vehicles and several lavish family holidays.

Lawrence pleaded guilty to eight counts of benefit fraud at Maidstone Crown and was sentenced to 16 weeks imprisonment, suspended for two years, as well as a 12-month supervision order.



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Pink Floyd trip for young patient

ROCK legend Nick Mason will help make the dreams of young cancer patients come true by whisking them around Silverstone race track in a Ferrari, ***writes Steve Knight.***

The Pink Floyd drummer is an owner and racer of classic cars and has teamed up with charity Starlight to create a day to remember for 50 terminally and seriously ill children.

One of the youngsters looking forward to Tuesday's event is seven-year-old Drew James, from Swanley, who two years ago was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). After chemotherapy he went into remission and was soon allowed to return to school, but mum Deborah said he took a turn for the worse following a routine flu jab.

She said: "Drew was just not himself. Then I noticed his glands were swollen and my world came crashing down. We took him for blood tests that showed he had suffered a relapse, and within 24 hours he was back at Great Ormond Street Hospital."

AML occurs when the production of blood cells gets out of control and many immature cells that are not able to develop properly are created instead. These cells fill the bone marrow and take up space needed to make normal blood cells, while also spilling into the bloodstream and being circulated around the body.

As Drew is an only child, he did not have a sibling who could act as a bone marrow donor, but in December, 2008, a match was found and the youngster underwent a successful transplant operation shortly after.

Mrs James said: "Drew still has his central line in place and because his medicines have suppressed his immune system he has spent most of the last year at home. A few weeks ago his donor levels had come up sufficiently for him to be allowed out of isolation, only for them to drop down a week later.

"Life does continue to be a struggle. The steroids Drew has to take are not without side effects, and even something as simple as getting a glass of water from the tap is not possible because of contamination.

"But I am one of the lucky ones. I've still got my little boy and every time I see him smile or laugh I count my blessings."

The Starlight Children's Foundation aims to brighten the lives of seriously ill children by granting their wishes and providing hospital entertainment. In addition to Nick Mason, the race day at Silverstone – which will feature Ferrari California cars – will also be attended by former Dynasty actress and Starlight head Emma Samms.

Mrs James said: "We can't thank the Starlight Foundation enough. By offering this gift of a Ferrari experience they have enabled Drew to do something other children can only dream of. He is so looking forward to Silverstone. The only trouble is deciding which friend to bring along."

• ***Visit www.starlight.org.uk for more information.***

Picture: PHIL GUEST



Picture: KAOTIC.NITE



SET THE CONTROLS: Nick Mason, left, will be among the drivers using the Ferrari California, above, to ferry youngsters including Drew James (inset), around Silverstone

Very neat trick by young Lewis

A YOUNG cancer patient pulled a trick out of his sleeve by being named one of Kent's best close-up magicians.

Less than two years after fighting for his life in hospital, 11-year-old Lewis Fuller, from Biddenden, near Ashford, is wowing audiences across the county with his impressive repertoire of table-top illusions.

And the youngster has continued his remarkable recovery by finishing third in the Kent Close-Up Magician of the Year contest, organised by Medway Magical Society.

Dad Jason said: "One contestant was nearly 17 and the rest were grown men, but Lewis surprised everyone. Nobody was expecting him to be so good. To be third best in Kent is amazing. I'm really proud of him. Because he's only 11 people think he won't really be able to show them much, but once he starts they can't get enough."

Doctors diagnosed Lewis with Ewing's sarcoma in April, 2008, after he was taken to A&E with a bump on his collarbone. Fewer than 30 UK children a year are affected by the cancer, which experts believe is linked to rapid bone growth. Mr Fuller bought his son a magic set while he was undergoing chemotherapy at University College Hospital, London, and is convinced Lewis now has a great career ahead.

Mr Fuller said: "He's been recovering really well but still has to get checked over every eight weeks. We're trying not to dwell on the past because Lewis wants to make a clean break, and he's doing a fantastic job because of his magic."

Visit www.lewisfuller.co.uk for more details.



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TV cameras recording Thanet's big dig



DIG IT: Archaeologists are tapping into a rich vein of history along the 6km course of the East Kent Access Road

Making inroads into isle's ancient secrets

BRITAIN'S largest archaeological dig is now under way in Thanet and will last until work begins on a new road in June, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

The big dig has already unearthed a multitude of artefacts and is expected to reveal even more secrets about Kent's past. And to ensure every step is covered, it is being captured on film for a BBC Two documentary.

The rich vein of important archaeological remains discovered along the entire route of the East Kent Access Road is being recorded for the TV show Digging For Britain, which will be screened in August.

Bronze Age

The excavation is the largest dig in the country this year, at more than six kilometres long.

Finds so far include 12 Bronze Age ring ditches – the remains of burial mounds dating back more than 3,500 years, Iron Age enclosures and a village at Ebbsfleet which lasted into Roman times.

There are also areas of Roman settlements, fields and trackways; Roman and Saxon cemeteries; Saxon buildings; and a large Saxon enclosure with huge quantities of shellfish. More recent finds include trenches excavated to defend Manston airfield during World War Two.

Kent County Council principal archaeological officer Simon Mason said: "Thanet was the gateway to England in ancient times and it is no surprise this dig has unearthed so many valuable remains.

"What is impressive is the story it tells us about how people were living here."

After the last Ice Age 12,000 years ago, rising sea levels turned Thanet into an island, which it remained until medieval times, when the Wantsum channel silted up. The area was distinctive for its with rich soils, helping settlement and farming.

And the number of Bronze Age burial mounds suggests that 3,500 years ago Thanet was one of the most populated parts of Britain.

Everyone can get involved in the big dig. Volunteers can work alongside professional archaeologists during a community excavation from May 10 until June 4, and school visits are being arranged.

KCC said archaeologists will also be available to give talks to schools, societies and organisations. Once the dig is complete, some of it will become part of the new East Kent Access Road.

The archaeological work is being done by the Oxford Wessex Archaeology joint venture on behalf of VolkerFitzpatrick Hochtief, which is building the £80m road.

It will provide better connections between Thanet, the national motorway network, Kent International Airport, Canterbury and the gateways of Ramsgate, Dover and the Channel Tunnel.

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Shoppers making farmers' markets a £3 million-a-year growth market

By **MARIJKE COX**

AS VOLCANIC ash crippled UK aviation and food imports were stopped in their tracks, farmers' markets continued to draw in the crowds.

But experts insist this was not down to any food shortage caused by the crisis – these local suppliers are becoming the new place to shop.

And despite the outlets being set up merely as an opportunity for small businesses in the late 90s, recent research has found the markets contribute around £3 million to the Kent rural economy each year.

The study, commissioned by the Kent Farmers' Market Association, revealed that 62 per cent of shoppers visit their local market every time it is held, with almost half of them aged under 50, despite traditionally only appealing to the older customer.



TOPS: Farmers' markets offer wide variety

Ever-growing

Benjamin Dent, chairman of the Kent Farmers' Market Association, said consumers were attracted by the locally sourced, fresh produce, as well as the chance to meet the suppliers.

He added that the closure of UK airspace only highlighted how important these markets are.

"All too often we have the absurd situation where produce is flown in from around the world, when Kent can grow the same produce, fresh and in season in the Garden of England," he said.

"The recent crisis in aviation has once again firmly shone the spotlight on where we source and buy our food and drink from."

Some 40 farmers' markets are held across the county, with many selling food once believed to be only available at supermarkets.

As well as fruit and vegetables, meat, fish, cheese, puddings and bread can also be purchased, with some also offering wine and beer.

Mr Dent added: "Consumers are clearly voting with their feet as more and more farmers' markets open across the county and both consumer and stallholder attendance continues to grow."

Julie Monkman, manager of Produced in Kent, a not-for-profit organisation promoting seasonal and local produce, said she was pleased they were becoming so popular.

"The rural economy really can't exist without them," she said. "They are absolutely key in ensuring local producers can get their produce out to the general public.

"There is also now an ever-growing demand as people choose to shop differently, whether this is because of the recession or for other reasons – they are vital to the community."

She added: "Supporting this kind of local supplier and produce is what Produced in Kent is all about."

Penshurst Farmers' Market, which celebrates its fifth anniversary this year, is an example of the growing popularity of the rural retailer.

With 30 stalls and 45,000 visitors since it launched, the market has brought in £360,000 for producers and growers, with more than £12,000 raised for charity.

For a full list of markets and opening hours visit www.kentfarmersmarkets.org.uk.

Council will borrow extra cash to make Dreamland a reality

THANET District Council is to plough £4 million of taxpayers' money into the planned redevelopment of Dreamland after the site's owner said it could not put in the necessary cash.

The project to bring the amusement park back to life was to be funded through a £3.8m Government grant, £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £4m from the Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company (MTCRC), which owns the site.

The remainder of the £12.5m cost would come from local authorities.

However, MTCRC now says that because of the difficult economic climate, it is unable to pay its share, meaning Thanet council will have to make up the money, which it says it will borrow.

Speed is of the essence if the planned redevelopment of Dreamland is to go ahead.

A Sea Change grant of £3.8m has been secured from the Government, but it will be lost if it is not spent by March 31, 2011.

With this in mind, council chiefs say they could make a compulsory purchase of the site if the plans do not move forward soon.

That means that if negotiations between the council and MTCRC stall and grants, which include other funding streams, are put at risk, the council will seek to acquire the land through legal action.

Thanet council chief executive Richard Samuel said it was a "fall-back" option and the council would rather not have to do it.

It is still intended that MTRC will sell the site to the council for a nominal sum, reportedly £1, but if it is not wrapped up by a target date of July 31, then Thanet council could take the compulsory-purchase option.

Work on the site could start by the end of the year, with the majority of the building taking place in 2011.

It is planned that the amusement park will become the UK's first heritage theme-park and offer a mixture of both old and new rides.

Dreamland in its new guise should be open by the summer of 2012, and up to 200 jobs could be created. Council estimates put the number of tourists that it could bring to the town at 700,000 a year.

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Wednesday 12th	Leeds Castle	£20.50
Friday 14th	Cambrai - Notre Dame de Grace	£27.00
Tuesday 18th	Denbies Classic Winery & Vintage Train Tour with Cream Tea	£38.00
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Picture: THE ASPINALL FOUNDATION

Aspinall has amazing reunion with gorilla he released into wild five years ago





LEARNING CURVE: Oudiki (left), Tiya and Kouki (main) are subject of 12-part television series

Welcome to the jungle, old friend...

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

SWING from trees, eat bananas, and check each other for ticks – you might expect that to be the sum total of what a gorilla needs to learn.

And it pretty much is so long as they are living at Howletts Wild Animal Park, near Canterbury.

But when the gorillas are to be released in the wilds of Africa a little more help is sometimes needed.

That's where Gorilla School comes in, and its work is being featured in a 12-part TV series on cable station Animal Planet.

The cameras followed three of Kent's own gorillas as they travel from the luxury living at Canterbury to the untamed jungles of Africa.

It takes time to adapt and train the animals to fend for themselves and Gorilla School has an amazing record.

The documentary will chart the trio's journey to the jungle as they are taught to live in the wild.

A highlight of the series is when Howletts owner Damian Aspinall is reunited with a gorilla he used to play with five years ago.

The 10-year-old silverback is fully integrated into the wild and is regarded as dangerous, having attacked other humans. But Mr Aspinall was determined to have a reunion with Kwibi, who was relocated from Howletts.

Experiences

Mr Aspinall said: "I was a little concerned, but the moment I heard his deep rumbling love-gurgle I knew then that I was okay.

"He looked into my eyes with such intensity and love. It was an incredible experience. We just sat there together sort of drunk with each other.

"He embraced me like a long lost friend and it was just beautiful. He slowly introduced his wives who had come to see me."

As Kwibi hugged him, Mr Aspinall said: "I don't know quite how I am going to get out of here."

The crew threw some raisins to lure Kwibi away and allowed Mr Aspinall to get back on to their boat.

He said: "He then followed the boat all the way back to our camp and on the other side of the river he nested his family and all night long he called out.

"At 6am I got up and went for a swim and there he appeared on the edge of the river. It was one of my greatest experiences of my life."

All three of the gorillas released – Oudiki, Kouki and Tiya – had been born into captivity. Each episode follows them as they are transported from Howletts to the Aspinall Foundation's Gabon reserve, and how they learn how to survive in a million acres of protected wilderness.

This unique project was the vision of the late millionaire conservationist John Aspinall who started The Aspinall Foundation.

Recently there was an 11th successful wild birth to a reintroduced gorilla.

• ***Gorilla School on Tuesdays from May 4, at 8pm on Animal Planet.***



HEART-WARMING: Damian Aspinall with Kwibi during his visit to the Gabon



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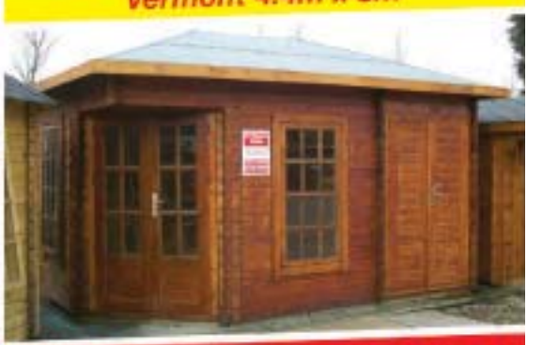
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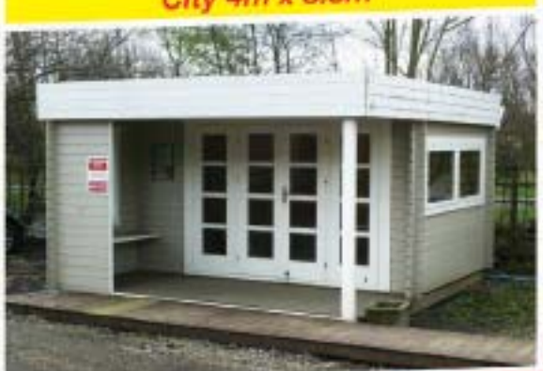
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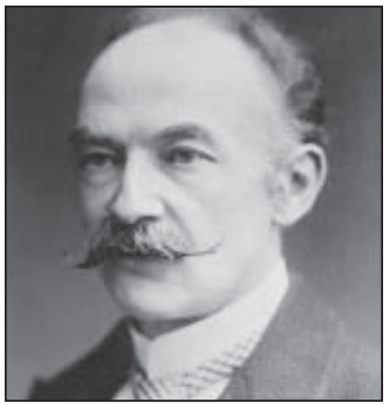
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Street name tribute to literary legend Hardy



LOCAL HERO: Author and poet Thomas Hardy

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

TOWN planners have paid tribute to the legendary author and poet Thomas Hardy by naming a Dartford street in his honour.

Hardy – who wrote the classic novels Tess of the d'Urbervilles, and Far from the Madding Crowd – also previously worked as an architect's assistant and helped design the original school house at Dartford Boys' Grammar.

His contributions have already been recognised in the past with the structure being renamed the Hardy Building, but now officials have gone a step further by giving the late writer his own street name.

A Dartford council spokesman said: "The notice has been up for a month with no objections and so it's official – we now have a Hardy Avenue. A long cul-de-sac off Heath Lane, it contains some 80 properties including Casterbridge House.

"The local connection is that Hardy worked as an assistant to Arthur Blomfield, the architect responsible for the original school house. It is said Hardy's notebooks contained a sketch of the angel now carved about the main entrance of the school."

Apprenticed

Born in Dorset on June 2, 1840, Thomas Hardy would go on to become one of the most successful authors and poets of his time, despite being born into a family of tradesmen.

His father and grandfather were both skilled in stonemasonry and construction, and after his schooling he was apprenticed to the Dorchester architect John Hicks.

However, Hardy had performed well academically and would get up early so he could read Latin or Greek before walking to Mr Hicks' office – a practice later copied by his fictional character Jude the Obscure.

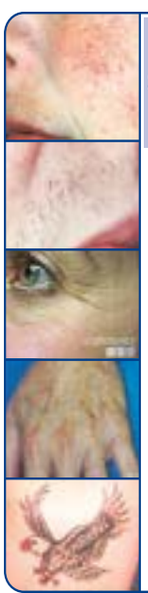
It was in 1862 that Hardy moved to London to work with Mr Blomfield, who is perhaps best known for designing the Royal College of Music.

He was also responsible for St Mary's Church in Walmer and St Michael's parish church in Abbey Wood. Hardy himself would later win prizes from the Royal Institute of British Architects and from the Architectural Association, and would eventually die aged 87 at Max Gate in Dorchester – a house he designed for himself and his first wife, Emma Lavinia Gifford.

By then he was a famous man, having published 14 novels, three volumes of short stories, a huge poetic drama of 19 acts, and about 1,000 poems.

But now he will be forever remembered in Dartford as the man who helped design a school that has produced the likes of former Kent cricketer Min Patel and Rolling Stones front-man Mick Jagger.





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Green MEP's anti-airport appeal is derided by Lydd chiefs

LYDD airport bosses have rejected calls from a Euro MP for further investigations into their proposed expansion plans and branded her comments "ill-informed".

Caroline Lucas, Green MEP for Kent, has appealed to the European Commission over Shepway council's decision to approve Lydd airport's expansion plans.

Dr Lucas, who is also the Green Party leader, has written to the Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik, asking him to investigate the threat posed to two protected sites by the proposed runway extension and passenger terminal.

The airport's plans are on hold after conservation body Natural England appealed to the Secretary of State when its advice was overridden by Shepway councillors.

A decision on whether the Government will call this in for a public inquiry will not be made until after the election.

Dr Lucas said: "I hope the European Commission will recognise this planned expansion is ill-advised and potentially in breach of environmental protection laws."

But the airport's Jo Oliver said: "Is she not aware that we originally submitted our planning applications in 2006 and then spent the next three-and-a-half-years working to make sure our plans took into account all the concerns being expressed?"

Councillors voted 27-12 in favour of the plans last month.

THE emaciated remains of a Staffordshire bull terrier have been found dumped in a bag in a cemetery.

The dead dog was found in Bexley Road, Erith, left in a black holdall and wearing a pink diamante collar.

RSPCA Inspector Alana Chapman said: "This poor dog appeared extremely emaciated and may have died through malnutrition."

Anyone convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal can face up to six months in prison and/or a fine of up to £20,000.

You can call the RSPCA on 03001234999.

Hairdressing was my first love says RAF's first woman jet pilot



Picture: ADRIAN PINGSTONE

BRITAIN'S first ever jet fighter pilot Jo Salter has a framed picture of a surface-to-air missile tracking her Tornado plane in enemy air space during the first Gulf War, ***writes Steve Loader.***

The former Chatham girl still cannot explain why the Iraqi missile didn't blow her out of the sky.



HIGH FLIER: Jo Salter piloted Tornado jets

This near miss was one of many enthralling stories revealed to an audience at the Kent 2020 business exhibition on the Detling showground near Maidstone, last Thursday.

She also told how a failed missile firing from her own plane meant she and her navigator had to cruise over the sea for half an hour waiting to see if it would blow them up.

The understandably cautious RAF controllers eventually ordered them home, only for another nerve-racking period as everyone waited to see whether the landing had triggered a countdown to explosion.

It could have all been so different, she said, because from the age of 13 she had wanted to be a hairdresser and was only dissuaded by a canny mother, who pressed her to study the sciences.

Even when she joined the RAF as an engineering officer, largely to gain sponsorship through university, she had no inkling that she would become a pilot – women were not allowed to fly any RAF aircraft.

This changed in 1989 to allow woman to fly helicopters and multi-engine aircraft in a support role. Still she had no interest in 'reaching for the sky', confessing she only went for flight aptitude tests after she learned they would be held at Biggin Hill: "It meant I could have tea with my mum."

But she soon realised she had the hand-eye co-ordination and other talents needed.

It led to her advancing to fast jets in 1992 and the Hawk trainer flown by the Red Arrows, though not without her instructor pleading with the establishment to ignore her sex and simply pass her on good results.

In 1995 she was cleared to fly combat missions with the Tornado, but not without prejudice: of the eight squadrons of the day, seven turned her down, but she was welcomed by 617 Squadron of Dambusters fame.

By this time, she had heard all the wisecracks too, including: "You can't be a fighter pilot – you won't be able to park."

At only 5ft 4ins, she also rubbished comments about being too small.

And now aged 41 and a mum, author and speaker, she has become an example to a whole generation of female pilots.

Police win half of £1.5m haul

KENT Police have received a financial boost with the prosecution of a Belgian money-launderer arrested in Dover.

Nabil Zekari, 39, was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison last December after Border Agency officials caught him attempting to leave the UK with approximately £1.5 million cash hidden in his van.

And following a successful forfeiture order, about half the money – believed to be the largest amount ever seized at a British port – will be awarded to Kent Police. The rest will be distributed by the Government.

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Have your say in dramatic climax

IN FOUR days the most exciting General Election campaign since 1997 will reach its dramatic climax.

Whether it's the historic first-ever leaders' debates or the saga of the "bigoted woman", there are plenty of reasons why this year's battle has gripped the nation's attention.

And with more marginal seats than anywhere else, Kent is at the centre of it all.

Big-hitters from all the main parties have visited the county over the last month, eager to convince us that their policies will lead the UK to a brighter future.

But if the rise of the Lib Dems has taught us anything, it is that nothing in politics is set in stone. Ensure you don't waste the opportunity to influence how things turn out.

Tactical voters, independents and political insiders have all had their say on what they think will happen come polling day, but nobody knows for sure. It will be fascinating to see who turns out to be correct – and what the implications will be for us all.

Welcome return

IT'S good to see one man can take on the might of a corporation like the BBC and still come out smelling of roses.

Geoff Clark was a much-loved local news anchor during his time on South East Today and, before that, Meridian Tonight.

He deserved better than being unceremoniously dumped last June and can now put the whole ordeal behind him.

OPINION: Fears for our civil liberty



IAN TAYLOR believes the next government could be ready to enforce a 'database state'

AS election fever mounts, all focus seems to be on the economy, which could decide many votes.

Other subjects risk being sidelined, including the ID card scheme and related 'database state' projects that lay behind it.

The card itself was never the point, it was always the ID database, and there's nothing voluntary about that.

In future, if you want a passport or other document 'designated' by government, you could be compelled to register on the database. If you don't 'volunteer' for the card, you'll still be fingerprinted and pay for the 'privilege', numbered, indexed and tracked by the database – for life.

Renew every 10 years or when circumstances, like your address, change, on pain of a hefty fine. Once on, there's no getting off.

NO2ID is non-party, but I invite all candidates to publicly state where they stand on this issue.

If you are approached, seeking your vote, press them on the subject. NO2ID's 'demands' are: scrap ID cards and the National Identity Register; that means repeal of the 2006 ID Cards Act, not just scrapping the cards whilst retaining the Act.

We also want an unequivocal end to related projects: the ContactPoint children's database, which over a generation or two could become a de facto Identity Register by default; the NHS Connected for Health centralised Summary Care Record (SCR) – uploading of confidential medical records; and amendments to the Data Economy Act.

We are also watching the privacy and civil liberty implications of the National ANPR Centre, which aims to record every British car journey; e-Borders – detailed information on all travellers passed around government agencies; vetting and barring – computerised records and official suspicion to control employment and volunteering by millions. Also, how the DNA database expands and is used.

Tempted

ContactPoint will eventually replace all the existing children's records kept by the agencies dealing with them.

The idea is to have every single child recorded – not just those who come to the attention of those agencies. Although records are planned to be deleted at age 24, who knows how tempted a future government may be to keep them and have the National Identity system they crave?

SCRs are the first stage of the NHS Spine. They are being rolled out across the country by Primary Health Care area, by the agency Connecting for Health, and haven't yet reached Kent, but soon will.

The argument for this is to have your details available in an away-from-home emergency.

People with some conditions may indeed welcome this, although A&E departments already work to protocols where they have no medical records.

Our argument is that the SCR contains the most personal of details which, as the NHS Spine develops, many people in the NHS, including non-medical ones, will be able to access.

Your GP will be asked to upload your details, and you should get a letter 12-16 weeks before it happens. If you don't respond, you will be assumed to have consented. Opting out is possible but hasn't been made easy.

NO2ID has produced more information and an opt-out form to send to your GP, available at www.TheBigOptOut.org. If you've already opted out, your GP records should be marked Read Code 93C3 or XaKRy, which means Not To Be Uploaded – Consent Denied. It may be worth checking with your GP to ensure this has been done.

Lastly, the Digital Economy Act, rushed through in the dying days of the old parliament, threatens to restrict or deny internet access and criminalise thousands of people even if there's no proof they've done anything wrong.

It's meant to prevent illegal downloading and file-sharing, and was driven by the powerful music industry. Large parts of the Act were word-for-word copying of submissions from the Performing Right Society (PRS).

The Digital Economy Act makes Britain the first country in Europe to restrict citizens' internet access and so closely monitor their internet use.

If you hold strong views on any of these things, don't let the politicians off the hook when they come seeking your vote.

All these schemes cost a lot of money that the country cannot afford. Which brings us back to the economy…

• Ian Taylor is the branch co-ordinator for Dover NO2ID.



Being double-crossed?

I was disappointed to see in the Liberal Democrats' manifesto that the party plans to keep the tolls at the Dartford Crossing.

Indeed, the wording suggests they could even sell the crossing. On page 25, the manifesto states: "Borrowing could be secured against or raised from government-owned assets such as the Dartford Crossing."

Clearly, funds will only be secured in this way if the revenue stream from the crossing is used as security which means the Lib Dems will, at the very least, keep the tolls.

But Dartford's Lib Dems have made scrapping the tolls the main focus of their campaign.

So how do the local party activists explain that? Are they so incompetent that they don't know what's in their national manifesto?

Or is it a case of the Lib Dems once again offering up one policy locally in attempt to jump on a bandwagon, when it bears no relation to their national policy?

If it's the latter, we deserve an apology – this is an important issue and Dartford residents deserve better than double-dealing.

Carole Jones, by email

Millie wants a word …

I strongly disagree with trying to sell the Dartford Crossing to some other people and because of this the prices to cross the bridge is going up. Everyone paid for the bridge with tax money and as we have paid for it we should be able to cross freely.

If the tolls were taken away there wouldn't be as many traffic jams and it would make a better environment. If the tolls were taken away, a poor person with little money wouldn't have to pay for something so silly.

So if he or she does have to pay, the money is actually being wasted. They could use it for something more useful. The money could have been spent on their children.

Millie, aged nine, by email

A star-spangled omission

It was nice to see so many attending Tuesday's memorial service at Westgate-on-Sea, Thanet, for the World War Two American airmen who died when their bomber crashed on the beach, clearing nearby residential areas and averting a wider disaster.

But there was one glaring omission, as far as I am concerned. God Save The Queen was sung by most of those attending, but when the United States national anthem – The Star-Spangled Banner – was announced, it was obvious hardly anyone knew the words.

Why didn't those who organised this very good service have the words printed out to hand round? I'm sure the Americans present would have appreciated hearing at least a few voices. After all it was their comrades who gave their lives for the safety of people in Westgate.

Eileen Cunnew, Westgate-on-Sea

We need a 20mph limit

I was intrigued by Lord Adonis's visit to Sittingbourne on April 15. As a political opponent, I thought he listened well and I know he has managed – unlike many ministers of transport of different political complexions – to be well regarded by many in the industry.

I am sorry the questions afterwards did not mention the topic of safety. While the number of road accident deaths in the UK has gone down considerably – about 3,000 deaths and many serious injuries – it is still too high.

Could we not look at the imposition in many residential roads of a 20mph limit? This is done in Germany with a speed limit of 30kph (about 19mph).

Because of likely fuel shortages and to improve safety, should we not also be looking at cyber cars for which there have been experiments in Daventry?

David Spurling, Sittingbourne

Mr Clegg is no Obama

I am sure we are all grateful to Anthony Hook, the former Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Dover, for sparing the time from his London law practice to praise his party's leader, but Nick Clegg is no Barack Obama.

Mr Clegg is very much a pillar of the political establishment, although still a fresh-faced one. He was public school educated (Westminster) and studied at Cambridge, Minnesota and Bruges, an education which few in this country are able to enjoy.

From 1994-99 he worked in the European Union and then became an MEP. He was elected as an MP in 2005. He is, to all intents and purposes, a career politician.

Obama worked for three years on Chicago's South Side as a community organiser before taking a law degree. He was the first African American editor of the Harvard Law Review before becoming the first African American President of the United States.

The Lib Dems can trace their origins through the Liberal Party of the 19th century to the Whigs of the late 17th and 18th centuries.

The last thing they offer is a fresh start.

Cllr Mike Eddy, Labour, Dover District Council, Mill Hill, Deal

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Movement for culture

As I spend a rare spare moment playing my guitar, I wonder how many of our children will get the chance to learn a musical instrument in their school. Dance is also good for communities. It is a creative activity for people of all ages and backgrounds, with the added benefits of being a popular form of exercise, entertainment and employment.

Some 4.8 million people participate in community dance each year in the UK. Dance is the second most popular physical activity for young people after football, and the most popular physical activity for girls.

Youth Dance England runs national programmes for 58p of public investment for each school-age young person (compared with £38.21 per child for music and £79.47 for school sport).

And the dance workforce is 40,000 – with 10,000 students in training per year.

Culture, media and sport are important elements through which social identity and a sense of community can be fostered.

Similarly, the continued existence of grassroots activity in sport and culture, despite the large scale withdrawal of public sector support, shows the continuing need and value of these activities to citizens.

Financial support should be given to ensure there are adequate resources to allow activities to flourish at a local level.

The private sector cannot sustain a varied local mix of cultural activities: local cultural services must not be cut.

Steve Campkin, Green Party, Ashford

Letters continued on page 28

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LAW
Emma and Rod celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Katie Law weighing 8lb 5oz on 13th April 2010.

DWYER
Lizzie and Iain Dwyer welcome the birth of their son Ronan Nicholas Iain Dwyer on the 19th April 2010.

MOURATIDIS
Haris and Karina are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy Markos Vasilis Mouratidis. Markos was born at 20.21 hours on the 6th April 2010. We look forward to introducing Markos to his family in Mexico and Greece.

MORRISON-GROOM
Shaunnie and Lee are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Evangeline Aurora-Fae who was born on 15th March 2010. Evangeline is a first grandchild for Vicky Groom, Nick Stevens, Lynn Morrison and for the late Paul Morrison.

BECKETT
Ian and Joy Beckett are pleased to celebrate the birth of their daughter Charlotte Elizabeth Beckett on 19th March 2010, weighing 7lb 12oz. Sister to Evelyn.

DEATHS

EVEREST
Paul died peacefully on 16th April 2010 in the Heart of Kent Hospice, Maidstone. Husband to Donna, father to Sydney and George and son to Dave and Janis. He was loved by all and will be sadly missed.

CHISMAN
John George Chisman, otherwise Jack Chisman of Ramsgate, passed away peacefully in his sleep on 21st April 2010. Enquiries to Twyman and Holmes in Ramsgate on 01843 852 758.

JOHNSON
Ronald Ernest died peacefully on the 22nd April 2010, loving husband of Euphemia and father of Tony, Ian and Anne. Any enquiries to Lyons Funeral Directors Canterbury.

RAYNER
Sandra Patricia (nee Moore) passed away 23rd April 2010 aged 57. Devoted mum to Steven and Darren and adoring nanny to all her grandchildren. Beloved by everyone. Will be missed more than words can say but remains with us all forever in our hearts. Cremation service will take place at Medway Crematorium on Wednesday 5th May at 10.20am and afterwards at Cobdown Sports and Social Club. Close family flowers only to Doves, 788 London Road, Larkfield, by 8.30am. Donations to Heart of Kent Hospice welcome.

GOLDING
Esther Golding passed away peacefully at the Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury on 23 April 2010 aged 63. A much loved Wife, Daughter, Sister, Mum and Nan. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Catholic Church Dover on Wednesday 5 May at 2.15pm followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery, Dover, then afterwards at DHB Social Club, Whitfield. Family flowers only please but donation if wished to Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury or Macmillan Cancer Support c/o W J Farrier and Son Ltd, 161 London Road, Dover, Kent CT17 0TG.

LARNER
Joyce Larner, loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, died 23rd April 2010 after a short illness.

Letters continued from page 27

A society that cares?

You may be interested to know that one in 10 of this newspaper's readers are carers.

Without payment, they provide support to a relative or friend who could not manage otherwise because of frailty, illness or disability. Carers' contribution is enormous.

Not only do they give up their time, employment and future aspirations to care, they save the nation an estimated £87 billion a year. But they receive little support in return. The Carer's Allowance is only £53.90 a week, the lowest benefit of its kind.

Politicians talk about creating a greater and fairer sense of community, yet the very people who are already making sacrifices for others are being taken for granted.

Carers' Support, a network member of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, is calling on all candidates standing for the national and local elections to improve the lives of carers by pledging the following: regular breaks for carers; keeping the Carers' Grant for local services; greater employment or benefit support so that carers are not living in poverty; and help for young carers in school and further education. If we want to build a society that cares, we must support carers.

Sue Ross, chief executive, Carers' Support, Ashford

Intolerable obsession

Ray Duff continues with his grand obsession and is now directing us how we should vote (Letters, last week).

One thing though, I do now understand the distinction between weather and climate.

Weather is something we experience every day. Climate is made up of only the weather that fits the climate change model.

Rather like the Government claiming we have 2.5 million unemployed, although there are possibly seven million plus when you add in those on Jobseeker's Allowance, on the sick etc.

Other experts have been claiming the Arctic ice is reforming and polar bears numbers increasing. So who do we believe? The experts in the 1970s who predicted a mini ice age; the experts who claim the world's problems are short term; or Mr Duff who wants to ignore what is going on in the world and continue with his grand obsession, while the poor, the starving, the over-breeders, the greedy, the stupid and downright evil continue destroying it.

No politicians have the power or the guts to reduce people's expectations to the low level necessary to achieve what Mr Duff wants, as most of the electorate wouldn't tolerate or be able to afford it.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Few questions for Ray

In reply to Ray Duff, and other Greens, let's have a look at some of their points.

The Greens wish to get rid of private cars, making people use public transport.

What about small villages and hamlets that do not have buses or trains? Also, I see a member of the Green Party states that 39,000 early deaths are caused by shipping. Where does that figure come from? What do we use instead of motorised vessels, sailing ships?

Even if we were to achieve zero emissions – at enormous cost – we in the British Isles would still be breathing in fumes from China [one new coal-fired power plant every few days] and India, plus the emissions from the world's many active volcanoes.

Doug Cheverst, Bexleyheath

This will give you a lift

In reply to John Gamet on the Leas cliff lift at Fokestone, he is right to point out the running costs claim for its closure last year by Shepway District Council, but campaigners regarded that as very short-sighted.

They should have worked far harder to find a solution well before closing it.

However, the facility is actually owned by Lord Radnor and his local representatives, the Folkestone Estate. It seems he and they decided, after an apparent stalemate with the council over renovating it and finding a new operator, to go ahead with the repairs and are hoping to have it back up and running by July at the latest. No announcement has been made as yet as to who is to operate it on licence from Radnor, though.

As for the repairs, Shepway council carried over £294,000 last year, from 2008, in order to supposedly cover these costs, but whether they will pay up remains to be seen. In my view they should, without quibbling, and if there were monies left over, these put towards future running costs and further renovations, if and when required.

Finally, on a related matter, I have heard that one of the former step-lift carriages that ran on the old second track is being renovated and may be placed on its memorial site, just inside the adjacent coastal park, in the next couple of months.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Three strikes and out

I see Gordon Brown's excuse for letting the EU run this country is the fact that three million Britons have jobs in Europe.

To my mind, watching the destruction of my country by being in the EU is not worth three million jobs.

So if we have millions of Europeans working here, let's do a swap. David Cameron's excuse was the fact that Europe is a trading partner. That being the case, let's get back to being just that, get out of Europe and stay as a trading partner. If he gave us that choice people would respect him and possibly vote for it.

Nick Clegg's excuse is just not worth talking about – a bit like him, really. He has now come out and said he will support Labour in a hung Parliament.

If that is the case, then Labour and the Lib Dems should go under the same banner so people know what they are getting by voting for them.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

PetAid's big milestone

I am proud to tell readers that veterinary charity PDSA celebrates over 80 years of free vet care for pets in Gillingham, with eight of those years at our PetAid hospital on Gillingham Business Park.

Over that time we have helped thousands of pets overcome sickness and injury, at a time when their owners were unable to afford vet bills.

As we celebrate another birthday, I want to say thank you to all our supporters, whose generosity keeps the PDSA running from one year to the next.

Your donations, whether in cash, in pledges or through wills, make such a difference. We are also grateful to our volunteers and fundraisers for devoting their time and skills for pets in need.

My colleagues at Gillingham PetAid hospital see about 170 pets a day at peak times. We provide over 55,000 treatments every year for pets and the hospital costs about £917,000 a year to run.

So it's easy to see why we rely so much on generous local support. To get involved with the PDSA, or to find out more, call 0800 731 2502 or visit www.pdsa.org.uk.

Helen Armstrong, senior vet, PDSA, Gillingham

Steering at loopholes

Read any Government literature on transport and the whole emphasis is on getting people out of their cars and onto public transport.

To achieve this aim the Government has let the road system fall into decay, parking is made ever more difficult and the constant downgrading of speed limits and enforcement is essential.

So if drivers look for loopholes in the way speed limits are enforced, can the camera partnerships really complain?

Everybody knows the whole thing is a farce. Those who make the laws in Parliament, those who enforce them and those who pass sentence in court are hypocrites. They all drive at the same speeds as everybody else.

Good, safe and courteous driving practice is what we should be focusing on, but that requires some form of skill to enforce, whereas speed limit enforcement can be done by any halfwit. For example, we have Speedwatch vigilantes scribbling down registration numbers.

Highway authorities have a legal duty to maintain speed limits signs, which they have failed to do, therefore many speed limits are being knowingly enforced illegally.

Go on the internet and there are hundreds of cases where camera partnerships have known full well that they are acting illegally but have only owned up when somebody has taken them to court.

Only last year new legislation was brought in so that even if drivers win their case, they will no longer be entitled to recover all their costs. With the threat of court costs, it is any wonder people are being bullied into paying up? So why not fight back where you can.

A couple of years ago in Kent, it was reported a member of the police was suspended over a "procedural" matter and more than 120 speeding cases were dropped.

Is this information freely available (or any similar errors) on the police or camera partnerships websites, so we can all see this was investigated openly and all those wrongly convicted had their convictions quashed?

Is it any wonder people have lost faith in government and institutions when all we see is deceit, cover-ups and bullying.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Drive-through polling

Reading the small print is a must before signing a contract, and the same goes before casting your vote. One party seeking election has the nerve to bill unwanted national road pricing as a 'fair deal for motorists'.

They will introduce it after the next Parliament and claim motorists will be no worse off. Just where will they get the £60 billion needed from, not to mention the running costs?

Another party rules out national road pricing in the next Parliament, but this is disingenous as they are fully signed up to European Union proposals and have been putting in the technology piecemeal at local level. They also support workplace parking taxes.

Another party supports road pricing for lorries, but the technology could easily be used to track the rest of us. They have the gall to consider tolls to provide new roads and even on existing roads, including motorways.

Drivers already pay £50bn a year for paltry investment. The new and repaired roads we badly need have been paid for in advance.

Opinion polls show that the driver vote will be key. I urge voters to ask candidates searching questions about where they stand before casting their vote.

Brian MacDowall, Association of British Drivers

A Blue Cross cuppa

I am writing to invite your animal loving readers to take part in a national tea party fundraiser this spring and summer in aid of the Blue Cross pet charity.


Alan Titchmarsh

The Blue Cross Tea Party combines the best of British – our love of tea and pets.

To take part all you need to do is hold a tea party with friends, family or anyone you like and ask guests to make a donation in return for tea and delicious edibles. Your party can be as lavish or as modest as you like, and if like me, you're partial to a spot of gardening, what better way to show off those blooms than with a garden party.

Every penny you raise will go towards the work carried out at Blue Cross veterinary hospitals and animal adoption centres across the country. As someone who has always had a variety of pets I know what love and company they can bring, and I'm proud to be supporting an organisation that helps to keep pets and people together.

So go on, pop the kettle on, have a brew and help a wonderful charity save the lives of many animals in need.

To register for a free event pack and to find out more, please visit www.bluecrossteaparty.org.uk or phone 08444 993 663.

Alan Titchmarsh MBE, The Blue Cross



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Women seeking men

ORIENTAL single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890

FUN-TO-BE-WITH, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 TXT

27-YEAR-OLD female, 5ft8, medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 TXT

BLUE-EYED brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880106 TXT

LOVING single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Box 464326 TXT

31YR old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 TXT

SINGLE mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Box 464835 TXT

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 TXT

CURVY brunette, 35, with green eyes, 5ft3, no ties, looking for an affectionate, and caring non-smoking guy to put the sparkle back into my life. Box 849706 TXT

PRINCESS Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more!. Box 877957 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Box 308734 TXT

HELLO I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 TXT

PETITE lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 TXT

SINGLE mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy. Box 860164 TXT

LOVELY female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

MUM of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 TXT

FUN to be with woman, 39, I love life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 TXT

PRETTY, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 TXT

EASTBOURNE based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch!. Box 464034 TXT

BLACK lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. Wltm a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 TXT

CUTE single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

SHY but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 TXT

SHY female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wining and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763 TXT

LOVELY, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, wlfm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 TXT

SINGLE, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells. I'm easygoing and fun loving and WLTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481 TXT

HI, I'm based in Ashford and I'm looking for a nice guy in the area. I'm a single mum, 42 and enjoy cooking, and cosy nights. Box 468148 TXT

PROFESSIONAL, single, Asian woman, 42, easygoing and fun to be with, seeking a single, professional, solvent white male, 44-52.Tunbridge Wells. Box 798931

ATTRACTIVE single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. WLTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Box 855182 TXT

HI there, I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and WLTM genuine, caring, loving male. Box 466612 TXT

SINGLE mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129 TXT

HARD working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Box 461037 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gsoh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. Box 459128 TXT

FUNNY, cheerful lady, 44, 5'6", curly hair, very social, likes walks and pubs. looking for a cuddly and outgoing man for a close relationship. Box 467518 TXT

FIT and healthy woman, average build. I'm 44, young looking and love animals. I would love to meet a sincere fella to spend time with. Box 466419 TXT

BUBBLY female, 44, brunette, n/s medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 TXT

AFRICAN lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5ft5, attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre. WLTM decent, white male. Box 466617 TXT

FUN-LOVING girl, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male tc enjoy nights out and good conversation. . Box 854480 TXT

SLIM blue-eyed blonde, 47, 5ft4, animal lover with no ties, very sociable non-smoker, loves the countryside, seeking easygoing companion and soulmate. Box 468120 TXT

YOUNG 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, worldly man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 TXT

HUMBLE lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life. likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 TXT

AFRICAN lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Box 460999 TXT

FEMALE, 48, divorced and happy, 5ft7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 a must. Box 866380 TXT

CARING, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Box 444366 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 TXT

PETITE blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Box 854822

PRETTY, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Box 460686 TXT

DIVORCED single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

SLIM blonde, 51, 5ft3, very caring, active, loves diy and gardening, wlfm a man with similar interests to get to know better. Sheerness. Box 467112 TXT

PETITE brunette, 51, 5ft, likes live music, pubs and socialising, gsoh, seeking a like-minded male for a serious relationship. Hastings. Box 467807 TXT

WARM hearted lady, 51, look younger! I'm 5ft6, slim build, with blonde hair, divorced (grown up children). WLTM nice man, 40's/50's in the Aylesford area. Box 461834 TXT

OUTGOING lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine. seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 TXT

PETITE, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us!. Box 893562 TXT

LATE 40's woman, slim, quite active, attractive, enjoy walks, picnics, the countryside, TV dramas, seeking a Pisces or Scorpio or Cancer male. Box 466610 TXT

SHORT 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gsoh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. Box 464601 TXT

PETITE woman, 53, with blonde/brown hair and blue eyes, 5'3", enjoy socialising, walking, cinema and generally having fun with a tall, honest man. Gillingham. Box 856810 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, hard-working 53yr old, I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. . Box 883410 TXT

LIGHT-HEARTED lady, 57, light hair, blue eyes, 5ft3, enjoys baking, gardening and DIY, seeks romantic non-smoker for romance. Rochester. Box 468691 TXT

55 year old lady, 5ft6in, blonde hair, blue eyes, GSOH, quite fit, enjoys the outdoors, lots of walking, politics, family time with the right man. Box 848381

SMART petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 TXT

SPONTANEOUS, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 TXT

VERY young 59 year old, 5ft, fun loving, straight-forward, honest, GSOH, employed with own transport, many varied interests, looking for friendship and companionship initially. Box 852149 TXT

HI my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 TXT

HONEST & sincere female, 58, tall GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 TXT

GENUINE, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566 TXT

POSITIVE woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 62, 5ft1, walks, cosy nights, pubs meals etc. I'm hoping to meet someone for friendship, and then we'll see. Box 466963 TXT

59YR old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kindred spirit who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143 TXT

CUDDLY lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 TXT

LOVING and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR...Margate. Box 460082 TXT

64 year old widow, 5ft6, slim and fit, active and healthy, likes walks, theatre, gardening a social woman seeking similar non-smoking gent. Canterbury area only. Box 467644 TXT

SLIM, attractive lady, 65, enjoy outdoors pursuits, dog walking, socialising and music, lots of time and tlc to give to the right person. Box 466636 TXT

SIXTY something, bubbly, outgoing, intelligent lady, looking for genuine friendship with like-minded male, love walks, talks, cinema, theatre or simply just coffee and chat.. Box 799885

PROFESSIONAL woman, 73, smart and fun to be with, medium build, seeks an articulate, smart, independent man of class to share quality time. Kent. Box 468560

Women seeking women

37 year old gay female from Kent, dark brown eyes, dark hair, loves the outdoors and fresh air, gardening, DIY, seeks feminine lady for love. Box 467298 TXT

EASYGOING female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wining, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking likewise female for companionship and more. Box 446953 TXT

HONEST female, 43, 5'2, medium build, fun-loving, likes clubs, pubs, eating out, nights in, looking for a female for friendship to start, hopefully a LTR. Box 466078 TXT



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Men seeking women

HARD-WORKING male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752 TXT

AUTISTIC male, 35, likes most thing, meals out, countryside walks, socialising, seeks caring, honest female for fun, friendship, maybe more. Canterbury. Box 467950 TXT

ASHFORD man, 35, I'm single, no ties, and looking for a similar woman. I'm 6ft6, with blue eyes/brown hair and enjoy pubs/clubs, eating out etc. Box 467416 TXT

HI there, I'm an easygoing male, 35 5ft9, medium build, brown hair. I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 TXT

36 year old single father, down to earth, works full time, enjoys family time, outdoor activities, cinema, meals out, seeks a similar lady. Gillingham. Box 854242

HI all I'm 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451503 TXT

AVERAGE bloke, 38, shy! Seeks young lady, looks unimportant, single mums welcome. I love gardening and riding my moped. Box 468095 TXT

SEEKING genuine lady. I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449648 TXT

YOUNG looking male, 39, quiet guy looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113 TXT

LOOKING for a down to earth green eyed lady. Must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862208 TXT

FUN-LOVING male, 40, 6ft, short dark hair, brown eyes, enjoys most things in life, seeks slim female size 10-12 who's reasonably good looking. Box 456889 TXT

HAPPY go lucky single dad, 40, looking for a slim female, -size 12, to share good times and happiness with. . Box 457738 TXT

ROMANTIC, fun-loving man, 40, 6ft tall, with dark hair and brown eyes, looking for a kind, considerate and romantic female. Box 459006 TXT

YOUNG 39yr old male, good looking, 5ft9, medium build, dark hair/blue eyes. I enjoy boating, country pubs walks etc. WLTM like minded lady. Box 467062

RICHARD here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Box 467883 TXT

EASY-GOING bloke, 45, dark hair, 5ft6, loving and genuine, likes cooking, theatre and music, looking for a long term relationship with a woman, 38-58. Box 468773 TXT

EASYGOING guy with wicked SOH. 45, 5ft11, slim-medium build, blue eyes and fair hair, loves animals, pubs and more, seeks loving lady for romance. Box 468369 TXT

SINGLE dad, 45, white, likes cooking, gardening, and a passion for Reggae music, seeking a black woman for friendship and romance. Box 468542 TXT

WARM, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

MALE, 46, medium build, easygoing, gsoh, honest, caring, 5'8", likes walking, reading, visiting places of interest with a similar lady who is honest. Box 851230 TXT

MARGATE male, 46, tall and slim easy-going, enjoy cinema, socialising and sport, looking for a decent lady, 40-55, for friendship and maybe a ltr. Box 468185

SLIM single dad, 47, works full time, looking for a slim/medium build lady, 25-50, children not a problem. Hobbies include, fishing, football, diy and cooking. Box 462637

47YR old Brighton based man, own home/business, seeks genuine loyal local lady aged 45-50 years to share it all with. Box 463623 TXT

CARPENTER with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 449274 TXT

44-YEAR-OLD man, interests include socialising, days out, keeping fit, days out, seeking a caring, honest female, to share fun times. Box 433992 TXT

LAID-BACK fun guy, 48, from Hythe, 6ft, slightly overweight-trying to lose it seeking a fun to be around female to takes things slow with. Box 468498 TXT

EASYGOING male, 48, 5ft11, fair hair, blue eyes, slim build. I love the outdoors, music, dining out, foreign travel and pubs. Kent. Box 468684 TXT

SINCERE genuine man, 47, 5ft9, cropped hair, blue eyes, clean shaven divorced, looking to meet a nice woman to get to know/take out. Eastbourne. Box 449554 TXT

GOOD looking divorced man, 49, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 460338

DOWN-TO-EARTH, fun-loving gent, 49, 5ft6, slim build, dark hair. I have GSOH and enjoy the simple things in life; pubs, music, country walks etc. Box 465464 TXT

YOUTHFUL dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, wlfm female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Box 737529 TXT

HONEST, caring man, 50, 5'11", likes cinema, countryside, beach walks, meals out/in, restaurants, looking for honest, caring, lady 45-55. Medway area. Box 852889 TXT

YOUNG 52, I'm a caring male with a GSOH. I enjoy sport, music and eating out, and I would like to meet a similar lady. Rochester. Box 467398 TXT

FIT and active man, 52, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, likes cycling, walking, theatre, poetry and film, WLTM a like-minded slim female, 35-55 with gsoh.Deal. Box 459706 TXT

CANTERBURY area. I'm male, 54, 5ft9, fit and active, attractive. I'm outgoing with a GSOH and enjoy meals out, nights in, animals, female company!. Box 464416 TXT

SHY guy! 54, 5ft9, short brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoys walking the dogs, bowling, swims and especially family life, hoping to find the same. Box 468126 TXT

SEPARATED electrician, 55, looking for a female to start a new life with. I enjoy holidays abroad, nights out, cooking and visits to the cinema. Box 963419 TXT

EASYGOING man, 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates. Box 861243 TXT

ACTIVE and easy-going male, mid 50's, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 464771 TXT

HEALTHY outgoing man, 57, 5ft10 non-smoker, brown hair, enjoys cinema, cooking and more, looking for an honest loving lady for TLC forever.Box 467572 TXT

KENT gent, 57, like music, socialising, cinema, fishing and holidays abroad, looking for a wonderful lady, 50-60, for friendship and romance. Box 466651 TXT

MY name's Andrew, 57, 5ft7, looking for a genuine lady for a relationship. I like travelling, walking, eating in/out, animals and going to pop concerts. Box 448926 TXT

GENUINE male, 58, 5'10", GSOH, slim/medium build, like animals, cooking, beach/country walks, driving, wltm loving, caring woman. Box 459280 TXT

PROFESSIONAL male, 50s, likes live music, eating in and out, WLTM slim female, to share interests together. Box 153535 TXT

SOCIABLE lad, 59, from Ashford, enjoy motor racing, films and watching television, looking for a lady to share the good things in life with. Box 465067 TXT

EARLY 50s widower, very honest and genuine, loves rock music, violin player, great cook, school worker, just hoping to meet someone. Box 468689 TXT

GENUINE chap, 60, medium build, brown hair/eyes. I enjoy socialising, pub meals, walking, cycling and I'm looking for lady with similar interests. Box 467429

SEPARATED male, 61, honest and trust worthy. WLTM lady for walks, trips to seaside, cuddles, and hopefully long term relationship. Box 445934 TXT

SLIM 60s male, 6ft, non smoker, likes country pubs, log fires, WLTM tall, slim non-smoking female 58-68. Box 455050 TXT

Men seeking men

40YR old chap, 5ft8, dark, slim/muscular build, good looking. Looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132 TXT

CARING gentle guy, 45, slim, 5ft9 short hair, looking for guys in the Medway area for fun foremost and then whatever else follows. Box 459815 TXT

TALL male, 48, slim, likes keeping fit, nights out on the town, holidays abroad, seeking a guy, 22-40, for fun times and friendship. Box 467901

LOVING, sincere male, 50, 6ft, medium build, likes art, nice clothes, music, walks, holidays, seeking a man 35-50 for a real and loving relationship. Box 468583

61YR old easy-going guy, likes reading, the outdoors, keeping fit, looking for a similar, with a positive outlook in life. Box 468581 TXT

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Men seeking women

FUN-LOVING male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Box 465333 TXT

LOVING and caring male, 40, 5ft8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Box 458290 TXT

HI there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317 TXT

HI I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372 TXT

OUTGOING, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750 TXT

PROFESSIONAL personal trainer, 42, 5ft10, green eyes, brown hair, athletic, seeking a female, 25-45, for fun times and friendship. Box 468675

YOUNG at heart 44yr old male, stocky build, 5ft10. Kent based, father, honest and down-to-earth, likes music, nights in, walking the dog, seeks genuine lady. Box 851804 TXT

GILLINGHAM male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate!. Box 465158 TXT

MALCOLM, 43, dark-haired, 5ft10, spent a long time on the shelf so looking for chats, friendship and maybe more with a film and music fan. Box 451561 TXT

HELLO, I'm Simon 43, single man in Kent own a construction co. Muscular build, blue-eyed, ruggedly handsome. Looking for a honest and genuine lady. Box 453322 TXT

FIT and active man, 52, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, likes cycling, walking, theatre, poetry and film, WLTM a like-minded slim female, 35-55 with gsoh.Deal. Box 459706 TXT

CANTERBURY area. I'm male, 54, 5ft9, fit and active, attractive. I'm outgoing with a GSOH and enjoy meals out, nights in, animals, female company!. Box 464416 TXT

SHY guy! 54, 5ft9, short brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoys walking the dogs, bowling, swims and especially family life, hoping to find the same. Box 468126 TXT

SEPARATED electrician, 55, looking for a female to start a new life with. I enjoy holidays abroad, nights out, cooking and visits to the cinema. Box 963419 TXT

EASYGOING man, 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates. Box 861243 TXT

ACTIVE and easy-going male, mid 50's, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 464771 TXT

HEALTHY outgoing man, 57, 5ft10 non-smoker, brown hair, enjoys cinema, cooking and more, looking for an honest loving lady for TLC forever.Box 467572 TXT

KENT gent, 57, like music, socialising, cinema, fishing and holidays abroad, looking for a wonderful lady, 50-60, for friendship and romance. Box 466651 TXT

MY name's Andrew, 57, 5ft7, looking for a genuine lady for a relationship. I like travelling, walking, eating in/out, animals and going to pop concerts. Box 448926 TXT

GENUINE male, 58, 5'10", GSOH, slim/medium build, like animals, cooking, beach/country walks, driving, wltm loving, caring woman. Box 459280 TXT



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Crunch the numbers

A COMPUTERISED accounts course is being arranged by the Medway Adult Community Learning Service.

The eight-session programme is aimed at anyone who wants to gain a recognised qualification in computer accountancy, with an exam taking place a week after the last class on July 12. It will be held at the Rochester Adult Learning Centre, between 6-9pm from Monday, May 10.

Call 01634 338400 for more information.

Help with computers

SILVER surfers over the age of 55 are invited to attend a free computer advice day.

The event is being held at the Romney Resource Centre in Mountfield Road, New Romney, from 1-4pm on Friday, May 21. Call 01797 367455 to book.

Success for store apprentices



JUST THE JOB: Morrisons apprentices celebrate as they pick up their NVQ certificates

BUTCHERS and bakers from across the county joined other Morrisons colleagues in picking up the UK's only craft apprenticeship awards.

The young workers combined a year's college study with on-the-job experience to obtain either an NVQ Level 2 in dough production and bakery, or an NVQ Level 2 in meat processing and butchery.

Regional director Mike Zamiteas said: "We're committed to preserving these craft skills through our training programme, including our apprenticeship scheme, the biggest of all UK supermarkets."

The successful Kent candidates received their certificates at the Morrisons supermarket in Grays, Essex.

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Students get help to find the right job

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

STUDENTS worried about not finding a job after they have graduated have been assured that help is at hand.

The University of Kent is staging an event designed to improve the employability, personal development and e-portfolios of young people so that the skills they pick up through further education are put to good use.

Kent Police and HM Prison Service will be among the organisations represented on the day, which marks the latest stage of a project to encourage students to engage more with local employers.

The event takes place in the Rochester Building on the Medway campus on Monday, May 10, and is being hosted by the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research.

Prof Chris Hale said: "This is an exciting project which is taking great strides in helping students maximise all the opportunities from their university experiences.

"The ultimate goal is that we will help our students become even more confident and highly-skilled during their time at Kent, which will serve them well within a highly-competitive jobs market."

Speakers at the event include e-portfolio expert Julie Hughes and the University of Kent's Dr Kate Bradley, who last year won a national teaching award for her use of web-based learning journals with her students.

Admission is free and employers who are interested in taking part in the project are also welcome.

Those who attend will also be able to meet students, staff and exhibitors from the Higher Education Academy (HEA), Escalate – the subject centre for education within HEA – and Kent Innovation and Enterprise, the university's dedicated business development unit.

The employability project is linked to the government-led Higher Education Achievement Report (Hear) initiative, which aims to provide a more detailed acknowledgement of a student's overall achievements, skills and personal development while at university, rather than merely a degree classification.

Visit blogs.kent.ac.uk/emp-pdp for more information.

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The successful candidate will be a motivated individual with previous experience in a Marketing role or be recently qualified. You will have a creative flair with a good eye for detail. It is essential to have excellent written, communication and presentation skills and be fluent in at least one other European language preferably French. It would be an advantage if you had experience of working in a manufacturing or pharmaceutical environment. This is a challenging and rewarding role working for a professional and progressive company.

Closing date: 7th May 2010. Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to:

Human Resources Manager, CCL Label (Ashford) Limited, Foster Road, Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH Tel: 01233 503333 or email gmorgan@cclind.com

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Operations Manager

As Operations Manager you will need enthusiasm and a hands-on approach in order to nurture our positive customer service culture. As Manager, you will be involved in all aspects of the business, including staff development, customer service, recruiting and financial controls.

This role requires someone with presence, someone who wants to be the face of the Operation for guests and staff. You will like motivating people and enjoying the buzz of very busy hotel. Ideally we are looking for someone who is currently in a similar role and has a good understanding of quality Food and Beverage establishment.

Fine Dining Assistant Restaurant Manager

As restaurant manager you will have the ability to deliver an exceptionally high level of customer service and who can motivate and develop a team. You will be involved in all aspects of the business including staff development, customer service, recruiting and financial controls. An exceptional knowledge of food and wine is required.

If you are interested in either of these vacancies, please send your CV with cover letter to: HR Manager, Abode Canterbury, High Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2RX

E: hrmanagercanterbury@abodehotels.co.uk
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Activities will include a programme of large scale psycho-educational workshops and delivery of Mental Health First Aid Training. You will demonstrate a knowledge, understanding and experience of working with those experiencing emotional distress or mental health difficulties as well as providing groupwork, education or training. A sound knowledge of other local services including employment and IAPT services would also be desirable.

Whilst being employed by KCA (UK) you will be required to work closely with our partners for this project and would receive an induction into both organisations.

For an informal discussion regarding this role please contact Kerry Smith, Operations Manager on 07779 658886.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 658.

Closing date: 7 May 2010.
Interview date: 19 May 2010 at Medway PTP.

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Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway

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Salary: £24,096 - £27,881 pro rata (dependant on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week Medway

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Lecturer in Functional Skills Ref: P0468

Salary: £24,096 - £27,881 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway

The College is seeking an exceptional candidate to participate in the delivery of Skills for Life qualifications across all the College Faculties. The successful candidate will be willing to organise and lead extracurricular and enrichment activities and contribute to the development of Functional Skills across the College. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching Basic and Skills and Functional Skills and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Market Research Officer Ref: P0464

Salary: £18,709 - £20,674 pro rata
18.5 hours per week (The College operates a flexible working policy)
Medway

We are looking for a creative and enthusiastic individual to assist the Marketing Team in devising and implementing effective internal and external market research. Excellent IT skills are essential as the role will also include keeping the College website up to date. The ideal candidate will have experience of carrying out market research activities and a good working knowledge of market research related software such as SNAP or Active.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in IT Ref: SE006

Hourly rate: £22.64 - £27.46 (dependant on qualifications and experience)

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Closing date: Wednesday 19 May 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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Sales/Business Development

Churchill House is a successful Ramsgate based private school providing English courses for international students throughout the year. We have an excellent reputation for providing high quality courses in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

We are looking for an experienced Business Development professional with first class communication skills. You will work as part of our sales and marketing team and be a team player with experience in business development and account management, preferably in the EFL industry.

You are highly computer literate and comfortable dealing with people at all levels. You have a dynamic, diplomatic and persuasive approach to selling with strong business acumen. Highly motivated and well organised, with good written and verbal communication skills in English. Fluency in another language is desirable. The role will include significant international travel.

This is an exciting and responsible position with a generous remuneration package tailored to attract the best. Send your CV and current salary to Churchill House, Spencer Square, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9EQ or email **Greg@Churchillhouse.co.uk**

The Foreland School

The Foreland is a day special school for 140 pupils with profound, severe or complex learning difficulties including some with autistic spectrum disorder.

Teacher Vacancy KS3/4
Main Scale + 1 SEN Point
Required for September 2010

We have a vacancy for a full-time class teacher to work with pupils aged 11-16years. Class sizes range between 8 and 11 pupils, supported by at least 3 Teaching Assistants.

Experience of working with pupils with severe learning difficulties and/or ASD is desirable but not essential and applications will be welcomed from teachers wishing to transfer to this type of work. Induction training will be provided in school and there are opportunities to pursue specialist training courses. The ability to work with other disciplines and to manage a small team of your own teaching assistants is however required.

As a result of the review of special schools in Kent it is intended that the school roll will eventually rise to 165 and as a result "significant expansion" will be needed. Exciting plans for a complete rebuild of the school in conjunction with a rebuild of Hartsdown Technology College in Margate are underway via the Building Schools for the Future initiative. As our school changes flexibility in the school's organisation will need to be maintained. Candidates should therefore be aware that this post is an appointment to the school as a whole, not necessarily fixed in the current Key Stage.

If possible, interested persons should make an informal visit to the school in order to meet the Head of Department and find out more about the nature of the work involved.

The school also currently has 2 vacancies in the administration support team. Whilst the roles are distinctly separate there is a possibility that the 2 positions could be combined for a suitably qualified and experienced candidate.

Data/Personnel Assistant
15 hours per week

Inclusion Support and INSET Administrator
10 hours per week
Salary scale Kent Scheme 5

Reporting to the School Business Manager you will be smart, cheerful and well spoken so that you project a suitably professional image of the school to the many people with whom you are in contact. Methodical and well organised you will set a good example to your colleagues, and you will be committed to team development and team working. The ability to maintain a positive working atmosphere within this small but busy team is essential, as is the need to share knowledge and skills with colleagues in order to increase the effectiveness of the team.

You will be proficient in the use of ICT and willing to explore a range of software with a view to making the school offices even more efficient and effective. Previous financial experience, including the ability to monitor and report on budget income and expenditure, is an essential quality for both positions, together with experience of delivering high quality, professional administrative support. Candidates will also need to be totally committed to working in a confidential and discrete manner due to the sensitive nature of many of the duties of the roles.

It is a specific requirement that candidates for the position of Personnel / Data Assistant will need to demonstrate previous experience or qualification in Personnel and payroll, including relevant personnel and recruitment legislation.

The Foreland School is committed to the safeguarding and well-being of children therefore all successful candidates will need to pass an Enhanced CRB check.

To arrange a visit to the school please telephone 01843 863891 and ask to speak to the School Business Manager or PA to the Head Teacher.

Requests for application packs should be made by email, quoting the position of interest to: foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications for all positions is Monday 17 May 2010
Interviews are expected to take place during week commencing 24 May 2010.

...Jobs for Kent continued from page 32

Cobham Hall
Independent Girls' Day and Boarding School
Cobham Kent DA12 3BL

Learning Support Teacher

Part-time (approximately 50%). Experience of supporting students in Mathematics and Science across KS3 and KS4 is required. The school is CReSTeD registered and experience of working with students with specific learning difficulties is preferable, although training will be given if necessary.

Teacher of Psychology

Part-time (approximately 25%). To teach Year 12 and Year 13 courses. Experience of IB an advantage but not essential.

All posts are for September 2010. Cobham Hall is an independent girls' boarding and day school and is set in 145 acres of stunning parkland in North West Kent. It is conveniently located near the A2 and M25. Please visit our website or contact the Headmaster's PA, Mrs C Blackwell, for further details of the posts and an application form. Closing date for applications is 13th May 2010, with interviews the following week.

The school is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful applicants are subject to a CRB check.

Tel: 01474 823371 • Fax 01474 825902
E-mail: blackwellc@cobhamhall.com
www.cobhamhall.com
Registered Charity No. 313650

2-3 Raywood Office Complex
Leacon Lane, Charing, Ashford, Kent. TN27 0ET.
T: 01233 713813 F: 01233 713847
E: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
W: www.kentplayclubs.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1104141
Registered Company No: 4649786

Dance & Sports activities for Children (5-11 yrs) at After School Club sessions.

Do you have experience/qualifications of working with groups of children (5-11yrs) encouraging them to get involved in dance and/or sports activities? Are you available between 3-6pm on weekday evenings & during school holidays?
Salary £10 per hour, hours negotiable.
This project is supported by BBC Children in Need.
All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Contact **Kent Play Clubs** for an application pack
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
Closing date for applications **7th May 2010.**

Are you looking for experience working in a child-care setting?

Are you currently unemployed or seeking employment?
Kent Play Clubs has funding to provide volunteer work placements and support in improving job-seeking skills.
Places are currently available for a 10 week course including 6 weeks gaining experience at an After School Club.
Gaining experience will improve your chance of securing employment.
If you are interested, please contact **Kent Play Clubs** for an application pack.
This project is supported by the European Social Fund

Senior Club Co-Ordinator at St Michael's After School Club

We are looking for an enthusiastic, caring and responsible adult to work 2.45pm-6pm
MON to FRI (term time only), with relevant experience and NVQ level 3 qualification in childcare.
Immediate start
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk

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Personal Wellness Coaches

required P/T hours to suit-work from home
Full Training and Support available
£1000.00+ per mnth
Call Estelle on 01622 664861
www.arribakent.biz

Fancy a change?

A unique opportunity for a

Good or Outstanding Teacher

We require an inspirational and dynamic teacher to join our team of professionals at this highly successful special school for pupils with autism.
Please email quest_school@btconnect.com for a job specification & application form or call the school office on 01732 522700.
Closing date for applications:
Friday 15th May 2010.

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School

Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)

As a graduate have you considered a career in teaching via the GTP route?

Current salary of £15,817 during training

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with Canterbury Christchurch University, is inviting applicants to join our Graduate Teacher programme from September 2010 in

Science

Further details, including an application form, are available from the school's website, www.raaave.com or from Muireann Casserly, e-mail mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

The closing date for application is Friday 7th May 2010

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Teachers Needed
Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✔ Daily / weekly / termly supply opportunities
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- ✔ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✔ Free use of resource centre
- ✔ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
0800 731 6871
or email enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

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Or email: office@classiceducation.co.uk
www.classiceducation.co.uk

A Kent based company you can rely on

Agency

Abbey Court School
"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for 2...

DEPARTMENT CO-ORDINATORS COMMENCING SEPT 2010 TO LEAD NURSERY/KS1 AND KS4/5 (FURTHER EDUCATION), IN THIS PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

MPS + TLR 2 (£6,057) + 2 SEN POINTS

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. Applications are invited from experienced special school teachers or those with an interest in developing management skills within a specialist context. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 14th May 2010
Interviews will be held on 24th May 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Abbey Court School
"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a...

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2010

MPS + 2 SEN Points + TLR 2C £2478 (with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 14th May 2010

Interviews will be held on 20th May 2010

For further details and a job description, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

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JobsforKent.co.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary: TBC
Closing Date: 10/05/10
To apply/more information:
Practice Manager
Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary: negotiable
Closing Date: 10/05/10
To apply/more information:
Practice Manager
Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: cust 001
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Admin Assistant/Receptionist
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Delce Infant School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 844127
Email office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk

Part time Administrator
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 5 May 2010
To apply/more information:
Amacsports Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 833000
Email jeanette.saunders@amactraining.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Part time Cook
Thanet
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Sous Chef
Deal
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 374007
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Catering Assistant
Canterbury
Salary: £6.00 per hour
To apply/more information:
Cathedral Deli
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 781290
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Operations Manager
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Abode Canterbury
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email hrmanagercanterbury@abodehotels.co.uk

Child Care

Flexi Bank Workers
Broadstairs
Salary: Hourly Rate tbc
Closing Date: 12 noon 28th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Bradstow School
Quoting Job Ref: Flexi
Tel: 01843 608727
Email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

PLAYGROUND INSPECTOR
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Tuesday 4th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 819419
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Pipe Layers, Pipe Fitters and Ground Workers
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Bartlett Contractors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01258 472419
Email fiona@bartlettcontractors.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Telephone Interviewers
Orpington
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Business Advantage Group plc
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email stevie.marrett@business-advantage.com

Debt Negotiator
Bromley
Salary: £15,500 - £17,500 OTE
To apply/more information:
Aktiv Kapital
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jobs@aktiv-kapital.co.uk

Domestic

Domestic Help
Thanet
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

General Domestic Assistant
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Yorke Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 451243
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Chamber Person
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Yorke Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 451243
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Learning Support Assistant (AEN)
Canterbury
Salary: £14,311 - £16,225 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 3rd May 2010
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Administration Assistant
Canterbury
Salary: £16,225 - £17,046 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 3rd May 2010
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

NVQ ASSESSORS
Sandwich
Salary: TBA
NVQ ASSESSORS REQUIRED
To apply/more information:
Elite Social
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304-614765
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

New Careers in Health and Wellness
Maidstone
Salary: £1000.00+ per mnth
To apply/more information:
Arriba
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 664861
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties
Medway
Salary: See below
Closing Date: 14th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Abbey Court School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 338236
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

DEPARTMENT CO-ORDINATORS x 2
Medway
Salary: See below
Closing Date: 14th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Abbey Court School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 338236
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Learning Support Teacher
Rochester
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 13th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Cobham Hall School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 823371
Email blackwellc@cobhamhall.com

Teacher of Psychology
Rochester
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 13th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Cobham Hall School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 823371
Email blackwellc@cobhamhall.com

Graduate Teacher Programme
Dartford
Salary: £15,817
Closing Date: Friday 7th May 2010
To apply/more information:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Teacher Vacancy KS3/4
Broadstairs
Salary: Main Scale + 1 SEN Point
Closing Date: Monday 17 May 2010
To apply/more information:
Foreland School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Data/Personnel Assistant
Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday 17 May 2010
To apply/more information:
Foreland School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Inclusion Support and INSET Administrator
Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday 17 May 2010
To apply/more information:
Foreland School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Dance and Sports activities for Children (5-11 yrs) at After School Club
Ashford
Salary: £10 per hour
Closing Date: 7th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Kent Play Clubs
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 713813
Email info@kentplayclubs.org.uk

Senior Club Co-Ordinator at St Michael's After School Club
Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 7th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Kent Play Clubs
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 713813
Email info@kentplayclubs.org.uk

Subject Lead Learner - English
Aylesford
Salary: MPS + TLR2b
Closing Date: 17th May 2010
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Sales/Business Development
Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Churchill House School of English
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Greg@Churchillhouse.co.uk

Hourly Paid Lecturer in IT
Medway
Salary: Hourly rate: £22.64 - £27.46
Closing Date: Wednesday 19 May 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: SE006
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Market Research Officer
Medway
Salary: £18,709 - £20,674 pro rata
Closing Date: Wednesday 19 May 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0464
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Functional Skills
Medway
Salary: £24,096 - £27,881 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 19 May 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0468
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Travel and Tourism
Medway
Salary: £24,096 - £27,881 pro rata
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0154
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Electrical Installation
Medway
Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 19 May 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0357
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Welder/Fabricator
Maidstone
Salary: £10.76 per hour
To apply/more information:
RPJ Engineering Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 831006
Email ataylor@scarab-sales.com

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 Regulation 36

ADOPTION OF THE MANAGING DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

On 20 April 2010 the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council adopted the Managing Development and the Environment Development Plan Document (MDE DPD). The MDE DPD has been subject to Examination by an independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State and the adopted DPD incorporates the binding recommendations of the Inspector.

Any person aggrieved by the adoption of the MDE DPD may make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on the grounds that the document is not within the appropriate powers and/or that a procedural requirement has not been complied with. Any such application must be made promptly and in any event not later than 6 weeks after the day on which the DPD was adopted.

The adopted MDE DPD, this Adoption Statement, the Sustainability Appraisal Report and the Inspector's Report are available for public inspection free of charge at the Council Offices at:

Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4LZ

Monday–Friday:
Between 8.30am and 5pm

Tonbridge Castle
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 1BG

Monday–Friday:
Between 8.30am and 5pm
Saturday: Between 9.30am and 4pm
Sunday: Between 10.30am and 4pm

These documents are also available for public inspection free of charge at all libraries in the Tonbridge & Malling Borough area. (Check with the library for opening times.) These documents can also be viewed and downloaded from the Council's website www.tmbc.gov.uk.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/01327/HOUSE **35 Langton Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
- Single storey kitchen extension (CA)

10/01219/LBCDEM **Burgess Hill Farm Pembury Road, Capel**
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of oast house, garages and stables within farm complex (LB)

10/01220/LBC **Bird In Hand Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Joinery alterations (LB)

10/01250/LBC **Holmans Slip Mill Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Convert existing redundant barn into stables (LB)

10/01349/FUL **Land Rear Of Vine Cottages, Horsmonden**
- Construction of 2 bedroom bungalow with associated parking and improvements to access (LB) (CA)

10/01198/HOUSE **4 Sutherland Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Alterations and single-storey rear extension with first floor balcony above, rear dormer (CA)

10/01218/LBC **Tunbridge Wells Police Station Crescent Road, Park**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of existing signage and replace with 8 No. of signs comprising 6 No. x wall mounted information boards; 1 No. internally illuminated notice board header and 1 No. post mounted site identifier (LB)

10/01282/HOUSE **Longfield Farmhouse Kings Toll Road, Pembury**
- Single-storey rear extension (LB)

10/01239/FULMJ Land South Of Micro Ready Mix Concrete Ltd North Farm Lane, Sherwood
- Redevelopment to provide 13 industrial units comprising a mix of B1(c), B2 and B8 uses (MAJOR)

10/01329/LBC Bull Inn The Street, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- Listed Building Consent - 3 No. replacement upvc windows to first floor front elevation (LB)

10/01157/FUL 20/22, 22A And 24A London Road Southborough, Southborough North
- Change of use of 20/22, 22A and 24A London Road from class B1 to class D1 for education of 16-19yr old students in conjunction with Barnardos Meadow School (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 01 May 2010

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00642/FL & TM/10/00643/LB – The Stables 49 Canon Lane Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PQ – Wateringbury Place Holdings are applying for refurbishment of main house including the remodelling of the internal layout. Alterations to windows, new rooflight and demolition of the existing garage erection of new conservatory and pergola. Extensions and alterations to existing gatehouse and workshop building. Conversion and alteration of winery building to form a single residential dwelling. Reason: HH LB CA

TM/10/00771/FL – 22 Forstal Road Aylesford Kent ME20 7AU – Mr M J R Gray is applying for conversion of existing outhouse to wc and insertion of rooflight into roofslope (Retrospective). Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00939/LB – 2 West Street West Malling Kent ME19 6QX – Kent Police Authority are applying for Listed Building Application: internally illuminated fascia sign and non-illuminated vinyl graphic. Reason: CA LB

TM/10/00793/FL – 1 Maddox Cottages Long Mill Lane Platt Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8NA – Mrs Sally Green is applying for demolition of rear single storey extension, construction of two storey rear extension to provide cloaks/toilet and kitchen dayroom, area on ground floor and bedroom on first floor, provide off street parking for two cars. Reason: HH CA

TM/10/00597/LB – 3 Bartons Cottages Long Mill Lane Dunks Green Tonbridge Kent TN11 9SB – Ms H Soanes is applying for Listed Building Application: Replace 3No. timber sash windows with new timber style to match. Reason: LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
HH	Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 23 May 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

2 May 2010

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

B2067 WOODCHURCH ROAD, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway surface dressing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on the B2067 Woodchurch Road, Tenterden, on or after 18 May 2010, for an estimated period of 2 days or until the works are complete.

It is planned that the works will be carried out between the hours of 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed in sections, between the junctions of Beacon Oak Road and Preston Hill Lane. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Beacon Oak Road, A28 Ashford Road, Woodchurch Road, Bethersden, Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Front Road and Brook Street.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

ST DUNSTAN'S STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because track renewal and maintenance works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, on or after 22 May 2010, on various dates as shown in the table below.

Start Date	Time	End Date	Time
Saturday 22 May 2010	5pm	Monday 24 May 2010	6am
Monday 24 May 2010	11pm	Tuesday 25 May 2010	6am
Tuesday 25 May 2010	11pm	Wednesday 26 May 2010	6am
Tuesday 22 June 2010	11pm	Wednesday 23 June 2010	6am
Wednesday 23 June	11pm	Thursday 24 June 2010	6am

The road will be closed for a distance of approximately 10 metres either side of the level crossing. The alternative route for through traffic will be via St Dunstan's Street, London Road, Rheims Way and St Peter's Place.

This Order will come into force from Monday 17 May 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are displayed, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Dartford as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 3rd May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Westwood Road, Southfleet.**
Extent:	South of Elm Cottage.
Date:	3rd May 2010 for 5 days.
Diversion:	Highcross Road and Betsham Road.
Purpose:	Murphy LTD will be undergoing electrical maintenance work.
Road Name:	**Whitehill Road, Southfleet.**
Extent:	300m south of junction of Westwood Road and Whitehill Road.
Date:	7th May 2010 for 15days.
Diversion:	Main Road, Green Street Green Road, Sandbanks Hill and Highcross Road
Purpose:	Murphy LTD to install a new electrical supply.
Road Name:	**Highcross Road, Southfleet.**
Extent:	150m south of junction of Sandbanks Hill and Southfleet Road.
Date:	28th May 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion:	Whitehill Road, Main Road, Green Street Green Road and Sandbanks Hill.
Purpose:	For Murphy LTD to install a new electrical supply.
Road Name:	**Southfleet Road, Bean.**
Extent:	50m north of junction of Sandbanks Hill and Highcross Road.
Date:	11th June 2010 for 20 days.
Diversion:	Bean Lane, B255 over A2, A296 Watling Street, take B259 slip road off, Park Corner Road, Foxhounds Lane, B262 Station Road and B262 Betsham Road.
Purpose:	Murphy LTD to install a new electrical supply.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 3rd May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate surface dressing works.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Whitepost Lane, Culverstone Green.**
Extent:	From its junction with Harvel Road to A227 Wrotham Road.
Date:	7th May 2010 for 1 week.
Diversion:	A227 Wrotham Road / Gravesend Road and Harvel Road.
Road Name:	**Luxon Road, Luddesdown.**
Extent:	From its junction with Leywood Road and Lockyers Hill
Date:	11th May 2010 for 1 week.
Diversion:	Lockyers Hill and Leywood Road.
Road Name:	**Leywood Road, Luddesdown**
Extent:	From its junction with White Horse Lane to Luxon Road
Date:	11th May 2010 for 1 week
Diversion:	White Horse Lane, Dean Lane and Strawberry Hill

SHRUBBERY ROAD, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Shrubbery Road, Gravesend between its junctions with Clarence Place and South Hill Road.

The Order will become effective on 17th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 7 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Rouge Lane and Clarence Place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of new gas and electric supply services

ALBERT PLACE, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect:

Albert Place (locally known):

Prohibition of driving between the junction with Windmill Street and the junction with Wrotham Road.

This proposal is part of the plans to divert westbound A226 traffic from Albert Place to Woodville Place, which will be improved and widened. The transfer of traffic from Albert Place will enable the creation of a new Civic Square in front of the Civic Centre.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Council Offices, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend and Doubleday House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford during normal office hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7B or by email to consultations@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 24 May 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

BUSBRIDGE ROAD, LOOSE PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Busbridge Road outside Brookfield on or after Monday 3rd May 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Stockett Lane, Forstal Lane and Well Street.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to renew a telegraph pole. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Tracy Zeal on 08700 500792.

WALLIS AVENUE, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Wallis Avenue between Bell Road and Brishing Lane and approximately 50m either side of the junction with Longshaw Road on or after Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th May, Saturday/Sunday 15th/16th May and Saturday/Sunday 22nd/23rd May 2010 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed. The closures will be undertaken separately as notified by advance warning signs.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Bell Road and Brishing Lane.

Walker Construction (UK) Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for improvement works to pedestrian footways and construction of two zebra crossings. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Pilcher on 01303 851111.

B2015 MAIDSTONE ROAD, NETTLESTEAD (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Maidstone Road between number 16 and Bishops Close on or after Saturday 8th May 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via B2015 Bow Road, A26 Tonbridge Road, A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to lay a service duct, carriageway resurfacing and Zebra Crossing markings. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Helen Cobby on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Sevenoaks as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 3rd May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Church Street / Noah's Ark, Seal.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Childsbridge Lane and Honeypot Lane.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 4th and 13th May 2010.
Diversion:	Church Street, A25 High Street, School Lane, Childsbridge Lane, West End, St. Edithas Road and Noah's Ark.
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway.
Road Name:	**Fawke Wood Road, Seal.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with St Julians Road and Carters Hill.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 4th and 13th May 2010.
Diversion:	St Julians Road and Carters Hill.
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway.
Road Name:	**Otford Lane, Halstead.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Shoreham Lane and A224 London Road.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 5th and 15th May 2010.
Diversion:	Shoreham Lane and A224 London Road
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway.
Road Name:	**Rushmore Hill, Knockholt.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Halstead Lane and Norsted Lane.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 6th and 16th May 2010.
Diversion:	Halstead Lane, Knockholt Road, Shoreham Lane, A224 London Road, A21 Sevenoaks Road and Rushmore Hill.
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway.
Road Name:	**Crockenhill Lane, Eynsford.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Wested Lane and Sparepenny Lane.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 7th and 17th May 2010.
Diversion:	Wested Lane, B2173 London Road, A20 London Road, Dartford Road, High Street Farningham and Sparepenny Lane.
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway.
Road Name:	**Eynsford Road, Crockenhill.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Crockenhill Lane and Crockenhill Cemetery.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 7th and 17th May 2010.
Diversion:	Wested Lane, London Road, Goldsel Road, Green Court Road, Main Road, Eynsford Road.
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway.
Road Name:	**Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Crockenhill Lane and High Street Farningham.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 7th and 17th May 2010.
Diversion:	Crockenhill Lane, Wested Lane, B2173 London Road, A20 London Road, Dartford Road and High Street Farningham.
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway.
Road Name:	**Noah's Ark / St, Ediths Road, Kemsing.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with West End and Honeypot Lane.
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 17th and 27th May 2010.
Diversion:	Noah's Ark, Church Street, A25 High Street, School Lane, Childsbridge Lane, West End.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Riverside / Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with A225 High Street and Crockenhill Lane.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 19th and 29th May 2010.
Diversion:	A225 Eynsford High Street / Eynsford Road, High Street Farningham, Sparepenny Lane.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Wested Lane, Crockenhill.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Crockenhill Lane and bridge over railway.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 20th and 30th May 2010.
Diversion:	Wested Lane, B2173 London Road, Goldsel Road, Green Court Road, Main Road and Eynsford Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Fens Way and Midfield Avenue, Swanley.**
Extent:	Entire estate.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 21st and 31st May 2010.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Lower Road, Swanley.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Top Dartford Road and Goss Hill.
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 22nd May and 2nd June 2010.
Diversion:	Top Dartford Road and Goss Hill.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Sounds Lodge, Crockenhill.**
Extent:	Whole length.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 27th May and 6th June 2010.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**The Meadows, Halstead.**
Extent:	Whole length
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 27th May and 6th June 2010.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Meadway, Halstead.**
Extent:	Whole length.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 28th May and 7th June 2010.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Deanery Road, Westerham.**
Extent:	Whole length
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 28th May and 7th June 2010.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Pootings Road, Westerham.**
Extent:	Pootings Road / Spout Lane.
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 28th May and 8th June 2010.
Diversion:	B2027 Four Elms Road, B2026 Station Road / Main Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Hoath Corner and Hampkins Hill Road.
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 30th May and 10th June 2010.
Diversion:	High Street, Chiddingstone, Lockskinners, Wilderness Lane, Lockskinners, Chiddingstone Hoath and Hoath Corner.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Chested Lane, Chiddingstone.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with B2027 Penshurst Road and Wellers Town Road.
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 1st and 12th June 2010.
Diversion:	B2027 Penshurst Road, Mill Street and High Street, Chiddingstone.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.
Road Name:	**Coldharbour Road, Penshurst.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Nunnery Lane and White Post Junction.
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 3rd and 14th June 2010.
Diversion:	Smarts Hill, B2188 New Road, Grove Road and Finch Green.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing.

SCHOOL LANE, HORTON KIRBY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on School Lane, Horton Kirby between Three Gates Road and Forge Lane.

The Order will become effective on 3rd May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restriction above will be via: Lambard Street, Mussenden Lane and Three Gates Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation a water supply.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Zoe Wopling has applied to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for the variation of a premises licence in respect of premises known as The North Pole, 434 Red Hill, Wateringbury, Nr Maidstone, Kent. The application seeks the licence in respect of the following: no variation to licensable activities, variation only seeks licensing of new build restaurant/bar. Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at the Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices (Licensing Department) Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling during normal office hours.

Any representations from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the Council by Wednesday 26th May 2010. Reference The North Pole, ME18 5BJ.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Susan Jayne Armstrong trading as S J Armstrong of 11 Medway Road, Crayford, Dartford, Kent DA1 4PN is applying to change an existing licence as follows

- to keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers at the operating centre at Unit 8 Mulberry Way, Belvedere, Kent, DA17 6AN

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Sevenoaks as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 17th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Church Road, Sundridge.**
Extent:	For approx 300m from junction with A25 Main Road.
Date:	17th May 2010 for 2 nights between 19.00 – 05.00hours.
Diversion:	A25 Main Road, New Road and Church Road
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**A225 Shoreham Road, Otford.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Greenhill Road and Otford Village Gateway Pad.
Date:	17th May 2010 for 4 nights between 19.00 – 05.00hours.
Diversion:	A225 Shoreham Road, Station Road, High Street Eynsford, A20 Main Road, Gorse Hill, London Road, Wrotham Heath, A25 Maidstone Road, Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green Road, Igtham ByPass, Sevenoaks Road, Maidstone Road, High Street Seal, Seal Road, A225 Otford Road, Sevenoaks Road, Station Road and Shoreham Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**A225 Shoreham Road, Shoreham.**
Extent:	Under Railway Bridge at Preston Farm.
Date:	Works will take place on 20th, 21st and 24th May 2010 between 19.00 – 05.00hours.
Diversion:	A225 Shoreham Road, Station Road, High Street Eynsford, A20 Main Road, Gorse Hill, London Road, Wrotham Heath, A25 Maidstone Road, Sevenoaks Road, Borough Green Road, Igtham ByPass, Sevenoaks Road, Maidstone Road, High Street Seal, Seal Road, A225 Otford Road, Sevenoaks Road, Station Road and Shoreham Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**Swanley Lane, Swanley.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with New Road and Woodgers Grove.
Date:	24th May 2010 for 2 nights between 19.00 – 05.00hours.
Diversion:	B258 Swanley Lane, Main Road, Top Dartford Road, Barn End Lane, High Road, Church Hill, A225 Hawley Road, Oakfield Lane, A2018 Old Bexley Lane, Dartford Road, Vicarage Road, A223 North Cray Road, B2173 Maidstone Road, London Road, Bartholomew Way and B258 Swanley Lane.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks.**
Extent:	For approx 350m through double bends at junction with Hillingdon Avenue.
Date:	25th May 2010 for 3 nights between 19.00 – 05.00hours.
Diversion:	B2019 Seal Hollow Road, A25 Seal Road, A225 St John's Hill, Dartford Road and B2019 Seal Hollow Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**B2027 Four Elms Road, Edenbridge.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Swan Lane to Five Fields Lane.
Date:	Works will take place on 26th, 27th, 28th and 1st May 2010 between 19:00 – 05:00hours.
Diversion:	B2027 Four Elms Road, B2026 Station Road, Main Road, B269 Spout Lane, Pootings Road and B2027 Four Elms Road
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**A225 London Road, Riverhill.**
Extent:	Between Morleys Roundabout and Gracious Lane.
Date:	Works will take place on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th June 2010 between 20:00 – 05:00hours.
Diversion:	A21 Sevenoaks ByPass, A25 Westerham Road, Worships Hill, A224 Amherst Hill, London Road, Tubs Hill, London Road and A225 Tonbridge Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**Hever Road, Edenbridge.**
Extent:	Between Warsop Trading Estate and New House Farm Road.
Date:	7th June 2010 for 5 days.
Diversion:	Hever Road, B2026 Mill Hill, Hartfield Road, Buckhurst Lane, Uckfield Lane and Hever Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway to be planed and resurfaced.
Road Name:	**Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Hoath Corner and Hampkins Hill Road.
Date:	Works will take place on 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th June 2010.
Diversion:	High Street Chiddingstone, Lockskinners, Wilderness Lane, Lockskinners, Chiddingstone Hoath and Hoath Corner.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**Oak Lane, Sevenoaks.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with A225 tonbridge Road to Brittains Lane.
Date:	Works will take place on 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st and 22nd June 2010.
Diversion:	A225 Tonbridge Road, A224 London Road, Tubs Hill, London Road and Brittains Lane.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**Wheatsheaf Hill, Sundridge.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Nightingale Lane and Scallops.
Date:	Works will take place on 18th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 28th and 29th June 2010.
Diversion:	B2042 Wheatsheaf Hill, Chevening Road, Cold Arbor Road, A25 Westerham Road, Main Road, High Street Brasted, Westerham Road, Brasted Road, Westerham Road, B2026 Hosey Hill, Hosey Common Road, Main Road, B269 Spout Lane, Pootings Road, B2042 Green Lane and Ide Hill Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.
Road Name:	**Croydon Road, Westerham.**
Extent:	Between its junctions with A25 High Street and Farley Lane.
Date:	29th June 2010 for 4 days.
Diversion:	B2024 Croydon Road, Clarks Lane, B269 Titsey Hill, Titsey Road, High Street Limpsfield, A25 Westerham Road, High Street Westerham.
Purpose:	Carriageway plane and resurface.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

HOLYWELL LANE, UPCHURCH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT works to replace damaged poles, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Holywell Lane, Upchurch, on or after 17 May 2010, for an estimated period of up to 5 days or until the works are complete.

It is planned that the works will be carried out between the hours of 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Holywell Farm. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Breach Lane, The Street and Halstow Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

COTTINGTON ROAD, MINSTER (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works in connection with the construction of the new East Kent Access Road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting traffic on Cottington Road, Minster, on or after 17 May 2010, for an estimated period of 18 months.

The effect of the Order is to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the section of Cottington Road, Minster, from a point 500 metres east of the junction with Thorn Hill for a distance of 400 metres eastwards, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NORTHWOOD ROAD, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Northwood Road between Trench Road and Waveney Road on or after Tuesday 4th May 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Trench Road and Northwood Road.

Down To Earth Trees Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for roadside tree removal works using a crane. Should you require any further information the contact is Jerry Edwards on 01959 524623.

THE STREET, PLAXTOL (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The Street between The Papermakers Arms to The Rectory on or after Sunday 9th May 2010 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via School Lane, Hamptons Road, Dunk's Green Road, Long Mill Lane.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to provide two new connections. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Ed Spalding on 01342 413633.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

SPELMONDEN ROAD, HORSMONDEN PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Spelmonden Road between the junction of Brick Kiln Lane to outside 3 Spelmonden Road on or after Tuesday 4th May 2010 when required for a period of up to 8 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Ruck Lane, B2162 Lamberhurst Road, A262 Goudhurst Road.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to replace overhead lines, poles and to provide a new connection. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Howard Farmer on 01342 413632.

MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD/GROSVENOR ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mount Pleasant Road/Grosvenor Road between the junctions of Newton Road and Goods Station Road on or after Sunday 23rd May and Sunday 30th May and Monday 31st May 2010 for a period of up to 1/2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via A264 Church Road, A26 London Road, A26 Mount Ephraim, Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, Meadow Road, Goods Station Road and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Darren Hickman on 08458 247 800.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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Kia boosted by storming sales start to 2010

By **STEVE LOADER**

HAVING expanded its currently untouchable seven-year warranty from just two models to its entire range, ambitious Kia has just enjoyed its best-ever month in the UK.

The record March also topped the Korean marque's most successful first quarter here – the 20,673 vehicles sold was close to the total sold over the whole of 2003.

Interestingly, sales of its now ageing Sportage SUV (sports utility vehicle) were up 62 per cent against the first quarter of 2009, reflecting the demand for cars with occasional four-wheel-drive in the harsh weather of early 2010.

But it also bodes well for the car's stunning replacement due later this year, which I reckon will allow this model to step away from its old status as a cut-price alternative to the increasingly expensive Toyota RAV4.

The newcomer is a fresh and sporty design blending the key SUV features – commanding driving position and raised ground clearance – and Kia promises a "highly competitive diesel and petrol engine line-up".

A taste of what to expect is already on the market in the form of a dynamic new version of the bigger Sorento, which ditched the traditional 'body on ladder frame' format for big 4x4s, and adopted a single-piece body more akin to a standard car.

Kia's argument is that the Sorento won fans with genuine off-road and towing prowess at a sensible price – with haggling, you could get into a new one for well under £20,000 – but it was never going to sell big to a niche market.

Its successor is lighter, more stylish and far better on-road, comes with an economical front-wheel drive only option and has the bonus of seven seats if you want it.

Okay, the new Sorento would be outclassed by its predecessor in a real mire, but it will conquer the mucky tracks and dodgy surfaces that many of us have faced over the winter.

The marque also launched another new car this year, a baby MPV called the Venga.

It's a clever and smart looking vehicle let down slightly by its powertrains and a ride quality that can be coarse. The driving experience is fairly lacklustre too.

But many buyers will be seduced by the spacious cabin enabled by a long wheelbase within compact overall dimensions and disguised by clever lines; the deep crease across the doors squeezes the depth of the flanks and lowers the high roofline visually.





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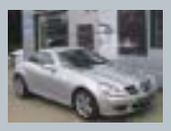
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Laguna is evoking Monaco memories

RENAULT has produced a striking Monaco GP limited edition version of its Laguna Coupé.

Available to order now for deliveries in July, it comes in white metallic with black roof, gloss black 18-inch alloys, bespoke Monaco GP dark grey leather upholstery, and Bose sound system. With all of the extra kit, the £24,995 price represents a saving of £5,200 compared with Coupé GT trim.

Power comes from a lively 180bhp diesel 2.0 dCi 180 FAP engine and the Monaco GP labelling is intended to recall the Renault F1 Team's most recent wins (2004 and 2006) at the legendary Monaco Grand Prix.

Other features include electric and heated front seats, front and rear parking sensors, tyre pressure monitor and Carminat TomTom sat nav.

Seat's 'son of Scrappage'

SEAT has launched an innovative double saving offer to replace the Government-backed Scrappage scheme.

Called 'Eco-nomics', it can deliver the same £2,000 saving on part exchanges against selected Ecomotive models – the Spanish VW arm's cleanest, greenest cars.

The double saving then comes from day-to-day running costs. The 1.6-litre diesel Ecomotive SE family hatch (pictured) – £16,045 with £2,000 allowance – comes with start-stop technology and an energy recovery system that Seat claims could save £4,300 over a typical three-year/45,000 mile ownership period.



These include the benefit from escaping road tax altogether.

Up-front savings are not quite as generous on the marque's Ibiza supermini, which starts at £11,540 under this offer, but the potential cuts to running costs are better and there are offers/savings on the Altea MPV, available from £14,765.

A Seat spokesman said: "With the ending of the Government's Scrappage scheme the industry has seen numerous 'swappage'-style deals pop up.

"However, we wanted to take the original ethos of the Scrappage scheme and add a Seat twist by making our latest, class-leading, green technology models even more accessible for everyone, not just owners of 10-year-old cars."

Subaru adds value to Impreza thrills



SUBARU'S sporty Impreza WRX and STI Type all-wheel drive hatchbacks are currently being offered with complimentary optional upgrades worth more than £3,200 at participating dealers.

The free items include the Prodrive Performance Pack, which further improves acceleration and new 18-inch alloys and tyres.

The Performance Pack adds reconfigured engine management and high-flow sports exhaust to the Impreza's impressive performance arsenal and the junior WRX has even had a further £95 knocked off its price.

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(SEE A 7 SEATER WITH AIR CONDITIONING. ONLY 4 LEFT!)

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MiniTest
by
STEVELOADER
ToyotaIQ3



Is Toyota's IQ Smart enough?

WAS Toyota being just too clever with the introduction of the bigger-engined IQ3?

Having outsmarted Germany's Smart by the small yet important margins seen in the city car sector, we did wonder last year if the Japanese giant had then lost its marbles.

The move certainly does not add up at first: the IQ3 (from £11,995) is £2,000 dearer than the IQ entry model with the 1.0-litre engine we saw at launch, the bigger engine's higher CO2 emissions (113g/km) means losing exemption from road tax and coughing up £30 annually after year one, while it averages 5-6mpg less than the smaller engine, depending on whether it is manual or auto.

But a would-be buyer needs to use their own IQ here and work out exactly how they are going to use the car.

In three-cylinder 1.0 form, the IQ really is a city car, though there is no reason why you should not drive long distances occasionally, especially as the car's wide track and similarly proportioned front cabin make it feel like a larger vehicle.

But the four-cylinder 1.3 engine delivers more acceleration and, crucially, more cruising power and refinement than the 'three-pot' on the motorway as I found when road testing a car loaned by Motorline Toyota at Canterbury.

This makes the IQ3 a great commuter car and suited to someone who lives some way from London or has a long commute across Kent as well as some town driving.

In short, a better all-rounder and potentially someone's only car, where as the original might be stretched to fulfil more than the duties of a second car.

The IQ3 also suits an automatic 'box, which in turn fits the ethos of the small city runabout; the original IQ is by no means poor in this area, but the auto gear changes can feel a little more frantic, though nothing like as bad as the Smart's, which can feel like a fun park ride in the cut and thrust of city traffic.

Overall IQ attributes are impressive too. It is just 30cms longer than the Smart, yet gains two extra seats.

However, the seat behind the driver is unsuitable even for a child in a child seat, unless the driver is pressed against the windscreen. The front passenger seat is staggered close to the dashboard though and this leaves room for an adult to sit behind – just.

So we have a 3+1-seat car rather than a full four-seater and the '+1' is really the boot as there is barely any space behind the rear seatbacks.

Nevertheless, the IQ is masterly packaged and its lower stance, combined with its wider track, goes a long way towards overcoming the pitching motion expected from a car with such a short wheelbase.

The IQ drives and handles well for its size, too. In fact, the larger engine of the IQ3 also settles the car more.

Interior quality and trimming is superb, although I think it could be a bit funkier to attack the Smart. On the other hand, if you want the 'Lexus' of city cars then this is it and it comes with no less than nine airbags – it may be small, but it is very safe.

Okay, there is something of the Lexus about the price and even Motorline admits that many buyers turn to the slightly bigger yet cheaper full four-seat Aygo.

But Motorline's Canterbury manager Robert Hobbs said: "IQ customers appreciate something a little different. The IQ is a car with intelligent answers to questions often raised with small car packages.

"It's funky and genuinely fun to drive, with an amazing turning circle, plus a feel of interior quality not seen in such a small car before."

DrivingPortfolio

TOYOTA IQ3 AUTO £12,995

Driving appeal	★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★
Value	★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★★★
Road tax	£30/year (zero for year one)
Best rival	Smart ForTwo

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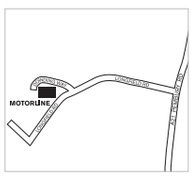


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2008 58 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 DYNAMIQUE 5DR 16" ALLOYS S/R A/C AUTO LIGHTS & WIPERS 11253 MILES	£8,945 A
2008 58 CLIO 5DR 1.5 dCi 86 DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS A/C C/LOCKING C/D PLAYER 39000 MILES PEARL BLACK	£8,995 M
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2008 58 NEW CLIO 1.2 16VS/TOURER DYNAMIQUE 15" ALLOYS CD AIR CON E/PACK 10600 MILES STONE	£9,295 A
2006 56 RENAULTSPORT CLIO 197 17" ALLOYS CD CLIMATE CRUISE CONTROL 33700 MILES ULTRA RED	£9,695 A
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2010 10 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM ALLOYS AIRCON SAT NAV C/LOCKING 10 MILES STONE	£9,995 M
2007 07 RENAULTSPORT CLIO 197 17" ALLOYS CD AIR CON H/F/CARD 22250 MILES ULTRA RED	£10,495 A
2007 07 CLIO 3DR 197 2.0 LTR ALLOYS AIRCON KEYLESS ENTRY SPOILER 9071 MILES ULTRA RED	£10,795 M
2009 09 CLIO SPT/TOURER 1.5 dCi 86 DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON C/LOCKING 16124 MILES SILVER	£10,795 M
2009 09 NEW CLIO 1.5 dCi 86 S/TOURER DYN 15" ALLOYS CD AIR CON E/PACK 6215 MILES	£10,895 A
2010 10 CLIO 3DR 1.5 dCi 86 BHP I-MUSIC ALLOYS AIRCON C/D PLAYER C.LOCKING 10 MILES PEARL BLACK	£10,975 M
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2008 08 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON PAN ROOF 17900 MILES TEMPEST	£6,995 M
2008 08 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS RADIO CD E/WINDOWS 18977 MILES IN BLAZE	£6,795 C
2007 57 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 TCE GT AIRCON ALLOYS C/LOCKING 19275 MILES GREY	£6,995 M
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2006 06 MODUS 1.6 16V AUTO DYNAMIQUE 15" ALLOYS CD A/C E/PACK 17910 MILES	£6,695 A
2007 57 MODUS 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE S 15" ALLOYS CD AIR CON 1/2 LEATHER 7715 MILES IN BLACK	£8,495 C
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2007 07 MEGANE 1.4 16V EXTREME 5DR 16" ALLOYS AIR CON ABS RENAULT CARD 39030 MILES BLUE	£5,895 A
2005 05 MEGANE SALOON 1.9 dCi 120 DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIR CON SUN ROOF E/PACK SILVER 38624 MILES	£5,995 C
2007 07 MEGANE 1.6VVT EXPRESSION 5DR AIR CON CD E/PACK ABS 6 x AIR BAGS 23355 MILES	£6,295 A
2006 06 MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AUTO 5DR 16" ALLOYS CD AIR CON E/PACK 31617 MILES BLUE	£6,495 A
2007 56 MEGANE 5DR 1.4 LTR EXPRESSION AIRCON C/LOCKING C/D PLAYER 22000 MILES GUNMETAL	£6,495 C
2007 07 MEGANE 1.6 VVT EXTREME 5DR 16" ALLOYS CD AIR CON E/WINDOWS 38210 MILES ECLIPSE GREY	£6,795 A
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2006 56 SCENIC 5DR 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON C/LOCKING 34820 MILES FLAME RED	£7,495 M
2007 56 SCENIC 1.6VVT AUTO PRIVILEGE 16" ALLOYS CD 1/2 LEATHER H/F/CARD A/C 16790 MILES QUARTZ	£7,495 A
2007 07 GRAND SCENIC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE 7S 16" ALLOYS CD AIR CON E/PACK 21750 MILES BLUE	£7,995 A
2007 07 GRAND SCENIC 5S 1.9 dCi 130 PRIVILEGE 16" ALLOYS CD AIR CON 1/2 LEATHER 39880 MILES BLUE	£8,495 A
2007 57 SCENIC 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE AIR CON ALLOYS E/PACK 19597 MILES IN BLACK	£8,495 C
2007 07 SCENIC 1.9 dCi AUTO PRIVILEGE 16" ALLOYS 1/2 LEATHER H/F/CARD A/C 34490 MILES BLUE	£9,295 A
2008 08 SCENIC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS CD AIR CON E/PACK 24017 MILES IN QUARTZ	£9,295 C
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2008 58 GRAND SCENIC 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS CD PLAYER AIRCON E/PACK 24586 MILES IN ECLIPSE	£10,795 C
2008 58 G-SCENIC 7ST 1.9 dCi 130 DYNAMIQUE'S' ALLOYS CLIMATE 1/2 LEATHER 22000 MILES BLACK	£12,795 M
2009 59 G-SCENIC 7ST 1.5 dCi 106BHP DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON H/F/CARD 9923 MILES RUBY RED	£14,995 M

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2009 09 LAGUNA COUPE 2.0 dCi 150 CLIMATE 18" ALLOYS REAR PARK SENSORS 6526 MILES PEARL BLUE	£16,495 A
2009 59 LAGUNA COUPE GT 2.0 dCi 180 BHP BODY KIT 4 WHEEL STEER 11000 MILES OYSTER EX-DEMO	£19,995 M
2009 59 LAGUNA COUPE GT 180 dCi BOSE SOUND SYSTEM 3D NAV BEIGE LEATHER 10498 MILES IN BLACK	£22,995 C

CABRIOLET

2006 05 MEGANE CC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AIR CON ALLOYS CD E/PACK 31491 MILES BLACK	£8,995 C
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2007 57 MEGANE CC 1.5 dCi 106 DYNAMIQUE 17" ALLOYS CRUISE CLIMATE 20152 MILES QUARTZ	£10,995 A

KANGOO

2006 06 KANGOO 1.6 16V EXPRESSION AUTO 14" ALLOYS CD E/PACK 11712 MILES COSMIC SILVER	£6,395 A

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2009 09 KOLEOS 4X4 2.0 dCi 175 PRIVILEGE ALLOYS CLIMATE FULL GREY LEATHER 10453 MILES GREY	£16,995 M

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2007 57 SEAT IBIZA 1.4 FORMULA SPORT 1 ALLOYS CD AIR CON E/PACK IN CLAK MAGIC WITH 18851 MILES	£6,995 C
2007 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S 3DR ALLOYS AIRCON E/PACK 20044 MILES IN RED	£6,995 C
2006 56 FORD FIESTA 2.0 ST 3DR LEATHER AIR CON E/PACK 17869 MILES IN BLUE	£8,495 C
2007 07 FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC CLIMATE 3DR 15" ALLOYS CD A/C E/PACK 25820 MILES BLACK	£6,495 A
2005 55 TOYOTA AVENSIS T3-X AUTO 5DR AIR CON CD ALLOYS E/PACK 25500 MILES METALLIC BLUE	£6,895 A
2005 55 VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 SPORT AIR CON E/ROOF ALLOYS 37186 MILES IN RED	£6,995 C
2003 53 MINI COOPER S 1.6 6xCD 17" ALLOYS CLIMATE 52500 MILES YELLOW/BLACK STRIPES	£7,895 A

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03 03 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5dr An economical car with central locking, Twin airbags, Electric front windows and City mode option..... **£2995**



04 04 Peugeot 206SE 1.4 5dr With Full service history, Remote central locking, CD/Radio, Electric windows front and rear, Electric wing mirrors and Climate control. **£3995**



03 53 Primera 1.8SE Estate A well maintained, roomy estate car with Full service history, Remote central locking, Alloys, CD/Radio, Climate control, Drive computer information screen, Electric windows front and rear, Electric wing mirrors, Electricsunroof..... **£4495**



05 05 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 ZEST 2, 3 door hatchback, finished in silver with matching upholstery, remote central locking, sunroof and air conditioning, cd radio with remote, electric windows and mirrors, only 2 former keepers..... **£4995**



05 05 KIA PICANTO 1.4 AUTOMATIC 5door hatchback, finished in dolphin blue metallic, air conditioning, cd/radio stereo, front airbags, remote central locking, electric windows, only 16500 miles from new with full service history, great value at **£4995**



05 55 Peugeot 206 1.4 Verve 3door hatchback, finished in black with contrasting interior, Alloy wheels, sports seats, air conditioning, CD/radio, front fog lights, air bags and ABS, a genuine low mileage car and in lovely condition, be quick **£5495**



02 52 Peugeot 206 CC Finished in Aegean metallic blue with contrasting black leather interior. Alloy wheels. air conditioning, ABS, EW, electric folding roof and very rare SP kit fitted. Beautiful condition throughout..... **£5495**



06 06 Citroen C3 1.4 Plurial, Finished metallic blue with silver detailing, very versatile roof, choose a targa top or a full convertible in minutes!! air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, alloys wheels, good value **£5995**



08 58 Peugeot 107 Urban 1.0 3 door, Finished in red with contrasting interior, electric windows and remote central locking 4 airbags, folding rear seat, fantastic fuel economy and only £35 per year road tax, value at only **£5995**



05 05 Vauxhall Tigra Sport Twinport 1.4, Lovely looking, fun car, perfect all year round, 36,000 miles..... **£7495**



04 04 Peugeot 307 2.0, Metallic blue with black leather upholstery. Electric folding roof, AC, alloys, tinted glass, remote central locking, front fog lights power fold mirrors, auto headlamp's and wipers. Peugeot service history, low mileage for year..... **£7595**



08 08 Ford Fiesta Freedom 1.4, Stunning example of this popular hatchback, one former keeper, FSH, Heated windscreen, Front Fogs, Aux Input, 20,900 miles **£7750**



08 08 Ford Fiesta 1.4 AUTO Style 3dr, hatchback finished in metallic red with grey interior. rare automatic, air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, a one owner car with low mileage, only **£7995**



07 07 Citroen Picasso HDI MPV, finished in silver with contrasting dark grey interior, great spec including air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, a nice example of this popular family car and value at **£7995**



09 09 Corsa 1.4 Club 5dr Well equipped with Air conditioning, Electric front windows, electric wing mirrors, CD/radio with steering wheel controls, MP3 connectivity and 6 airbags **£8495**



08 08 Citroen Berlingo M-SP VTR 1.6 16v, Spacious people carrier for work and family. One owner from new, with full service history, 7353 miles..... **£8495**



09 58 Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr A good looking car in silver with dark grey interior, alloy wheels, front foglights, Air conditioning, electric front windows, electric wing mirrors, MP3 connectivity, CD/radio with steering wheel controls. **£8995**



07 07 SEAT Leon 1.6 Hatch 5dr Finished in silver with contrasting interior, air conditioning, remote central locking, CD radio with mp3, airbags, abs, low mileage for year and good value **£8995**



06 06 Mazda 5 2.0 Sport, Room for All the family in this well equipped 6 seater with CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Sliding rear doors, Climate control, 17" alloys **£9495**



06 06 Honda Civic 1.8ES I-VTEC A host of features, including CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Dual zone climate control, Electric windows front & rear, electric wing mirrors, cruise control and Reverse park sensors..... **£9495**



05 55 Nissan Murano 3.5 CVT. Satellite Navigation, Reverse parking camera, Bose Radio and 6-CD autochanger with steering wheel mounted audio controls, Climate control, Electric Sunroof, Full leather upholstery with heated front seats, Rear privacy glass, 18" alloys, Bi-xenon headlamps..... **£11,995**



04 04 Nissan 350Z, A dream drive with a powerful 276 bhp 3.5 litre engine, Full main dealer history, 6CD/radio, 18" alloys, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Climate control, ESP **£11995**



05 05 Volkswagen Golf 2.0GTi Automatic 5dr, A fabulous drive with many features including 17" alloys, climate control, front foglights, electric windows all round, electric/heated wing mirrors, radio/CD with 10 speakers..... **£11995**



09 59 Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI S 5dr hatchback, silver with contrasting interior, A/C and electric windows, remote central locking, CD radio, 6 air bags, ABS and ESP, split rear seats, amazing fuel economy from this great diesel engine, save over £4000 from new..... **£12495**



09 58 Qashqai 1.6 Acenta Remote central locking, Dual zone climate control, Electric windows front and rear, CD/Radio with Bluetooth compatibility and steering wheel mounted controls, ABS with EBD, Cruise control, 16" Alloys... **£13,495**



10 59 Peugeot 407 2.0 HDI Sport Saloon, Silver with black half leather interior, full colour integrated sat nav, bluetooth, climate control, electric seats, electric windows and power folding mirrors, 6 airbags, abs and esp, cost new over £23000 amazing value at **£17495**



07 07 Pathfinder 2.5DCI Aventura A fully equipped 7 seater, full leather upholstery with heated front seats, Sat Nav, 6 CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, Cruise Control, Climate Control, Electric Sunroof & mirrors, Intelligent key, alloys, ESP. **£18995**

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DrivingReview



by STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Smart ForTwo Coupé



Play Smart but weigh

APART from the few electric cars around, Smart's diesel version of its distinctive ForTwo Coupé is the greenest production car on UK roads.

It offers parity on CO2 emissions with that paragon of eco-motoring the Toyota Prius, and also betters its average fuel consumption by around five mpg.

You could also buy two for the price of the Toyota and dodge around town and park more easily – providing you don't have to carry more than two people.

However much it is greener than its petrol brothers though – and there is not that much in it – I would still go down the petrol route.

A Smart is never a pleasurable drive and more of a means to an end, but the diesel is hard work.

Okay, it's a masterpiece of compact engineering, but gruff and lumpy, especially when cold.

Even when warm it hates accelerating; the official time to 62mph is 16.8 seconds, but that seemed optimistic to me and you soon learn to throttle back anyway to ease the racket.

If the diesel has a virtue it is that the extra weight deadens the pitching effect allowed by the car's short wheelbase when changing gear automatically.

Familiarity with any Smart teaches you to back off the throttle just before the gearbox changes up anyway, but it is preferable to select gears manually most of the time and engage auto only when in slow moving traffic.

The Smart is also more entertaining when hustled manually, by flicking the floor-mounted shift or, if fitted, steering wheel paddles.

Despite its relative height, a Smart does not roll into bends as you might expect and the diesel is even better planted, though spirited driving can make even this hop around a bit – albeit in a safe and predictable way.

Nevertheless, with the extra wear and tear on tyres and mechanicals – not to mention the nerves – it makes it hard to recommend the diesel to any but the committed town dweller.

And as many Smarts are bought as cheap-to-run second cars and consequently do fewer miles, this also argues against the fuel savings of the diesel.

But don't let all this put you off what remains a funky way to downsize your car choice.

For its size, the Smart is still extraordinarily

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Motability

Vehicle shown is Cruze 1.8 LT at £14,400, metallic paint available at an extra cost of £400. 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £289. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 05 July 2010. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev90079)

Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Cruze range emissions: Urban 25.0 (11.3) - 40.4 (7.0), Extra Urban 48.7 (5.8) - 61.4 (4.6), Combined 36.2 (7.8) - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 Emissions 184g/km - 145g/km.





the diesel with care

space-efficient even if it now has stiff competition from the clever Toyota IQ, which is just marginally longer yet can seat three plus one – I won't allow Toyota to claim it can seat four.

The current Mark II Smart range has also done away with some of the flappy Blue Peter DIY fixtures and fittings of the original car.

It now has a proper boot, with roll-top parcel shelf and two-part opening. For light items, you simply lift the glass upper tailgate; if loading bulkier stuff, you then drop the main tailgate.

Unfortunately, the small matter of a 20cm/eight-inch increase in length has stolen away one of the Smart's great publicity stunts – the ability to park nose or tail in to the kerb. It just seems to jut out that bit too far for comfort now.

Interestingly though, while we were filming our test car in and around Hythe for Motors TV at www.carsforkent.co.uk and realising this ability had been lost, we found a family so in love with its Smart they had created a tailored parking slot off the main driveway of their home.

It underlines how some families see this car as the perfect shopping 'trolley' and a decent space-saving second car, but prices start at nearly £8,680 – more than enough for a decent four-seat city car like the Fiat Panda.

DrivingPortfolio

SMART FORTWO COUPE PASSION CDI £10,190

Driving appeal	★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★
Value	★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★★
Road tax	£0
Best rival	Toyota IQ

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the raucous and lumpy diesel even though it's a little engineering marvel

NOT SURE: that the Smart now cuts it against Toyota's far more sophisticated and roomier IQ

REALLY LIKE: how the Smart is still a clever city 'pod' – the bare minimum for two people

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*Offer available on iQ² 1.0 litre Multidrive 3 door and iQ³ 1.33 litre manual 3 door with nil advance payment. Subject to availability. Please note that 20,000 miles per year are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Offer subject to change on 30th June, 2010. †Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. ^iQ² Illustrated.
iQ² 1.0 litre Multidrive Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 49.6 (5.7), Extra Urban 68.9 (4.1), Combined 60.1 (4.7). CO_2 Emissions 110g/km.
iQ³ 1.33 litre manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 47.9 (5.9), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO_2 Emissions 113g/km.



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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: Urban12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (8.3), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5). CO_2 Emissions 364 - 119 g/km.

† Finance is based on a deposit of £2250, £500 paid by WJ King, £1750 paid by customer, minimum finance amount £5000, minimum term 24 months. Finance supplied by Barclays Partner Finance, subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required. Model is available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Offer applies to new Corsa models ordered and registered between 01.04.10 and 30.06.10. (1) The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. Model portrayed is for illustration purposes only. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the 207 range re: Urban 49.5–28.5 (9.9–5.7), Extra Urban 76.3–49.5 (5.7–3.7), Combined 64.1–39.2 (7.2–4.4) and CO2 171–117 (G/KM) and the 308 range are: Urban 49.5–24.78 (11.4–5.7), Extra Urban 74.34 –47.08 (6.0–3.8), Combined 62.7–35.76 (7.9–4.5) and CO2 188–120 (G/KM).

*Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty and £55.00 Government First Registration Fee. Customer swappage allowance relates to savings against published list price of vehicles. Offers apply to vehicles registered from 31st March 2010 until such point as they may be withdrawn by WJ King at its discretion. *Subject to terms and conditions. Offers subject to availability and on selected models only. + Your car must have been registered before 28th February 2003, be registered with the DVLA, have a current MOT test certificate and have been registered to you for 90 continuous days. For further information please visit wwww.wjking.co.uk/peugeot. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes only. E&OE.

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Alto range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 62.8 (4.5) to 74.3 (3.8), combined from 54.3 (5.2) to 64.2 (4.4). Official CO2 emissions from 103g/km to 122g/km.

Model shown is the Alto 1.0 SZ2 at £7,655 on the road (metallic paint available at £370). Maximum contract mileage of 6,000 miles per annum applies. Finance is subject to availability for Alto vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2010 and 30th June 2010 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Credit is available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Indemnities may be required. The final repayment is payable one month after the last monthly payment. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. E&OE.

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7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. Models shown: 1.4 Rio 1 @ £6,395 On The Road (OTR) including £1,500 trade in allowance; 1.4 cee'd 1 @ £10,595 OTR including £2,000 trade in allowance; 1.6 Soul 1 @ £9,500 OTR including £2,000 trade in allowance; 1.4 Venga 1 @ £9,995 OTR including £1,500 trade in allowance and 1.0 Picanto 1 @ £5,395 OTR including £1,500 trade in allowance. OTR prices includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Metallic / mica paint is available at additional cost. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01 April 2010 and 30 June 2010. Terms and conditions apply - please visit WJ King for full details. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only. A £59 inc VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes only. E&EO.

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Model shown is the new Leon 1.6 TDI CR 105PS Ecomotive SE. Priced at £16,745. †The £2,000 saving is off the recommended retail price of the Leon 1.6 TDI CR 105PS Ecomotive SE and is available between the 1 April and 30 June 2010. Retail sales only. Subject to availability. Offer may be withdrawn at anytime. *The total running cost savings over 3 years are derived from the Leon Ecomotive having a VED Band weighting of band A (up to 100g/km CO2) therefore the owner pays no road tax, a saving of £375 is based on the average CO2 emissions for the Leon range of 146.6g/km meaning the owner must pay Road Tax based on VED Band F of £125 per year over 3 years. A fuel saving of £659.15 per year is arrived at based on an average of 15,000 miles per annum using the average combined fuel economy for the Leon range (46.35mpg) compared to the combined fuel economy of the Leon Ecomotive (74.3mpg) and a fuel cost of £1.19 per litre. The total fuel saving is then taken over 3 years which is the average period a vehicle is retained giving a saving of £1,977.45. Total running cost savings over 3 years are therefore £2,352.45. Fuel prices and VED band rate correct at time of going to press. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. Please note, model portrayed is for illustration purposes only. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Leon 1.6 TDI CR Ecomotive SE in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 60.1 (4.7); extra-urban 83.1 (3.4); combined 74.3 (3.8). CO2 emissions up to 99g/km.

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Fuel consumption and CO2 for Hyundai Range – Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for the Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 54.3 (5.2), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 64.2 (4.4), CO2 Emissions 225 - 115 g/km.

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147, 1.6TS 5DR, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering trip computer front parking sensors quickclear windscreen, met red, 37051 miles, £3300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

147, JTDM Ducati corse, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 5396 miles, £14500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM SPORTWAGON LUSSO, 2008, air conditioning alloy wheels cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, stromboli grey, 9532 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £16000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GT, 1.8ts cloverleaf, 2008, black metallic with grey leather, 28000 miles, £11950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)**GT**, JDTm, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 54000 miles, £8500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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DB9, Volante V12, nk57eef, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, sports seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, brake assist, multiple airbags, quick-clear screen, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rain-sensing wipers, xenon headlamps, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, where will you find another at this great value. at big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, blue, 12001 miles, £79997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, FSI SPORT, 2003, abs brakes central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 39000 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi 170 QUATTRO, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey, 23009 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A5, COUPE SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser mp3 player power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation single cd player sports seats tinted glass traction control twin airbags xenon headlamps curtain airbags front parking sensors remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, white, 25000 miles, £27000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, FSI Quattro SE Tip Auto, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation, blue, 44500 miles, £13250, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

AZURE, Azure CONV AUTO SAT NAV, 25225188, full leather, satellite navigation, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, electric seats, head restraints, heated seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, brake assist, multiple airbags, quick-clear screen, colour coded body, front fog lamps, headlamp jetwash, metallic paintwork, rain-sensing wipers, xenon headlamps, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, silverlake blue, 19373 miles, £119000, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 118d Sport 5dr, mf07faj, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, height adjustable seat, sports seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, rear spoiler, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 0 miles, £8987, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320i SE Auto, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation, green, 34155 miles, £13500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking, silver, 76698 miles, £7080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, MSport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, metallic black, 22000 miles, £26000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 630i sport convertible auto, 2006, grey metallic with beige leather sport seats, 61000 miles, £24950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 730d SE AUTO SAT NAV, mt08ztv, satellite navigation, full leather, xenon headlamps, headlamp jetwash, rain-sensing wipers, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, cd player, electric seats, electric handbrake, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, auto-dip rearview, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 45410 miles, £22997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)



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Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

8 SERIES, 840 ci sport coupe auto, 1997, silver metallic with grey leather sport seats, 121000 miles, £5850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

M3, M3 Coupe, full leather, harman kardon, multi-function steering wheel, cruise control, sports seats, rain-sensing wipers, headlamp jetwash, xenon headlamps, bluetooth, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, radio, stereo, electric glass sunroof. at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, blue, 0 miles, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

Z4, 2.0 SE CONV, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote alarm, remote central locking, head restraints, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, traction control, trip computer, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, air conditioning, cd player, radio, stereo, at Big Motoring World we average over 350 bmw's in group stock. we are open 7 days a week and easily located just off the m20, m26 and m25. big enough to cope, small enough to care. out of hours contact 07956 158119, black, 24997 miles, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 3.0v6 crd auto, 2006, midnight blue pearl metallic with dark slate grey, 36000 miles, £10950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CROSSFIRE, V6, 7578079, air conditioning, full leather, electric seats, heated seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, side air bags, abs, auto-dip rearview, cruise control, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, blue, 60100 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

GRAND VOYAGER, 7745079, air conditioning, climate control, power steering, full leather, head restraints, electric seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, privacy glass, parking sensor, centre armrest, multi-disc cd player, radio, twin air bags, curtain airbags, cruise control, traction control, abs, auto-dip rearview, powered folding mirrors, trip computer, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, roof rails, alloy wheels, stow & go, silver, 47200 miles, £11995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, gk51gwk, central locking remote central locking front electric windows electric windows passenger airbag drivers airbag power steering air conditioning immobiliser alarm half leather interior alloy wheels, nightfire red, 65000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

SEBRING, Limited Leather, ko08mxj, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, stability control, cruise control, multiple airbags, isofix, heated seats, height adjustable seat, electric seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, front fog lamps, powered folding mirrors, 18'' alloys, this car represents amazing value for an '08'plate diesel, with leather a/c cd and economy from its 2.0 litre diesel engine. you get a good family sized luxury car at a truly remarkable price. call us for a test drive before it's too late!, gloss black, 26000 miles, £7999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

DODGE

AVENGER, CRD SXT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 19000 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CALIBER, CRD SE, 2008, pearl inferno red crystal, 15700 miles, £7499, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FERRARI

575M MARANELLO, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control, black, 14500 miles, £54900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

F430, Spider, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows heated seats leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 5049 miles, £84900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, Pop, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, pasodoble red, 600 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2010, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, bossanova white, 1000 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 Dynamic, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags trip computer remote central locking, crossover black, 14299 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 DYNAMIC, 2007, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, metallic red, 16000 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 2.0TDCI TITANIUM 5DR, ef09yba, 2yrs roadside assistance, rear park assist, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, colour coding body, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, bluetooth with usb, privacy glass, quickclear heated screen, balance of 3 year warranty. smcone of the largest ford main dealer groups. with over 400 ford cars and commercials in stock today.all ford vehicles under three years old come with the balance of three years ford warranty and roadside assistance.low rate finance avai, silver, 8000 miles, £15995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, gn52lzp, insurance group 3 audio remote control body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment history, moondust silver, 62000 miles, £4000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, ap58axn, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment 1 owner service history, moondust silver, 9000 miles, £9000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FOCUS, ZETEC CLIMATE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, sea grey, 14580 miles, £10580, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 ST170 5DR, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights full service history half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, met grey, 73999 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4ZETEC (CLIMATE), 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tinted glass trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen, black, 46326 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 Style Climate, 2006, tonic, 25500 miles, £5995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags power steering, silver, 55 miles, £29100, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GALAXY, TDCI Zetec, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points roof bars remote audio controls, silver metallic, 46700 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, Ka 3dr, gn52wzp, immobiliser, power steering, air bag, head restraints, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 58000 miles, £2499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

KUGA, Titanium Tdci, 7820079, air conditioning, power steering, climate control, half leather, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, parking sensor, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, cd player, radio, rear headrests, auto-dip rearview, rain-sensing wipers, adjustable steering column, abs, cruise control, twin air bags, curtain airbags, trip computer, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 8500 miles, £19495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MONDEO, TDCi Zetec, 2008, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 16261 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 2.0 Zetec TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer front parking sensors remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, panther black, 2160 miles, £19000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 Titanium TDCi, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover trip computer panoramic sunroof front parking sensors remote central locking isofix child seat points multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, ink blue, 2915 miles, £20000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

STREETKA, 16v Hard/Softtop Winter Edition, full leather, remote central locking, power steering, air con, multi-disc cd player, factory hard top, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric front windows, abs, twin air bags, cd player, heated seats, colour coded body, 16'' alloys, car comes complete with factory colour coded detachable hard top which has a neat bag for summer storage. there is also a perspex wind deflector fitted to the car. surely an ideal summer car dont miss it!!, french blue metallic, 42000 miles, £5299, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TOURNEO, 9 SEAT TREND INC AIR CON PRE REG, 59, 115 ps, minibus, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, blue tooth hands free, only 1 remaining. 9 seater, grey, 50 miles, £17990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TOURNEO, TRANSIT 9 SEAT LIMITED PRE REG, 59, 140 ps, minibus, finance available, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, alloy wheels, blue tooth hands free. 9 seater, grey, 50 miles, £18990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 330 MWB MED ROOF TREND, 59, 115 ps, panel van, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, warranty, cd player, alloy wheels, air conditioning. blue, 50 miles, £17990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 automatic, remote central locking, power steering, full leather, cd player, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, head restraints, 15'' alloys, blue, 88000 miles, £3499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

S-TYPE, SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit climate control drivers airbag dvd electric windows full service history leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation front parking sensors remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) remote audio controls, indigo blue with barley leather, 63500 miles, £11490, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.2D SE, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 15000 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.0 D SE, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers quickclear windscreen roof bars remote audio controls, pacific blue, 83358 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XF, Premium Luxury, 2010, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation tinted glass, indigo blue, 14140 miles, £33000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XK, V8, 2010, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloyls automatic cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 59 miles, £60800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LOTUS

ELISE, S, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player, black, 11000 miles, £26000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ELISE, 1.8 S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights metallic paint leather interior power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 18247 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

EVORA, 3.5 V6 2 SPORTS PREMIUM TECH, 2010, liquid blue, 200 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 PERFORMANCE and TOURING PACK, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior split folding rear seats sports seats remote central locking, aspen white, 13000 miles, £30000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, Expression 16v 3dr, gk58owg, blue, 750 miles, £9495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

ESPACE, 3.00, 2008, black, 55 miles, £27500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GRAND ESPACE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 58700 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KOLEOS, 2.0 dCi DYNAMIQUE, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, blue, 4785 miles, £17000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KOLEOS, 2.0 dCi DYNAMIQUE, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid remote central locking, blue, 4785 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, Dynamique, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, red, 75000 miles, £2100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MEGANE, priviledge, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, black, 71433 miles, £3700, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SCENIC, Dynamique, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 16800 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TWINGO, TCE GT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue metallic, 14000 miles, £6711, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ROVER

25, Impression, 2003, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sun roof remote central locking, red metallic, 56000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

45, Impression S 3 5dr, lv03uen, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, privacy glass, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, alloy wheels, red, 43000 miles, £3495, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

CITYROVER, Style, 2004, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 35251 miles, £3500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SUBARU

IMPREZA, 1.5R, 2007, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags sports seats traction control, blue, 15289 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IMPREZA, 1.5R, 2007, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags sports seats traction control, blue, 15289 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

IMPREZA, 1.5R, 2007, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags sports seats traction control, blue, 15289 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

ALTO, GL, 2005, automatic transmission drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering split folding rear seats, red, 56000 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ALTO, GL, 2005, automatic transmission drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering split folding rear seats, red, 56000 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALTO, GL, 2005, automatic transmission drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering split folding rear seats, red, 56000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CARRY, Jify 'Style' Hot & Cold Catering Vending Truck, yc06ykx, large refrigerated display. large oven. handwash facilities. white, 15000 miles, £8995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

IGNIS, GL 5dr Auto, 7854079, power steering, electric front windows, electric mirrors, twin air bags, central locking, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, radio cassette, roof rails, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, alloy wheels, silver, 60400 miles, £2995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

IGNIS, GL VVT-S 5dr, ef06tcy, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, adjustable steering column, power steering, isofix, multiple airbags, colour coded body, radio, cd player, electric front windows, electric mirrors, blue, 17000 miles, £5995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

JIMNY, JLX, au03wub, power steering, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, cd player, radio, metallic paintwork, 4x4, aluminium silver, 59000 miles, £2745, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

SWIFT, GL, 2006, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats twin airbags isofix child seat points, metallic silver, 20000 miles, £5495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SWIFT, glx, 2008, air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags trip computer twin airbags, blue, 14863 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SWIFT, 1.5 GLX, 2009, air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser mp3 player power steering trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, superior white, 3002 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SX4, GLX, 2007, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue -metallic, 27948 miles, £7481, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SX4, GLX, 2007, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue -metallic, 27948 miles, £7481, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

SX4, GLX, 2007, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue -metallic, 27948 miles, £7481, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SX4, GLX 5dr, gk08wve, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, twin air bags, colour coded body, head restraints, cd player, radio, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, 15'' alloys, blue, 15000 miles, £7489, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

WAGON R, Wagon R++ GL, w342ykn, immobiliser, power steering, electric windows, air bag, cloth upholstery, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, green, 56000 miles, £1999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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As well as our usual opening times, we shall be open from 3.00pm to 7.00pm Sat 1st and Sun 2nd May to take entries. **Regrettably no entries will be accepted on the sale day. All start times are approximate and the auction will run continuously.**

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INSIDE THIS WEEK



REBUILDING your team is a strong theme this week after several speakers at the influential Kent 2020 Vision business show said recruitment was the big issue facing firms after the recession.

Naturally, hungry young talent – school leavers and graduates – gained much of the spotlight at the event held at Detling, Maidstone. But this week's Big Interview takes a look at the other end of the spectrum, through the eyes of veteran businessman Brian Kent.

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'Regulations bonfire' 2020 plea by Carter

BUREAUCRACY is costing Kent and UK generally one new home in five compared with our Continental neighbours, ***writes Steve Loader***.

This simple yet shocking fact was delivered by Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter at the Kent 2020 Vision show at Detling, Maidstone. Cllr Carter, whose own business interests include construction, also plans to deliver the proof of this at a local authority housing conference he proposes for later this year.

He told the audience: "When I started out 30 years ago, to build anything you needed two pieces of paper. Now, I need about 20 compliance documents."

On top of that, he added, a developer must now pay a raft of consultants to check compliance with all those additional regulations.

Nevertheless, he was shocked recently to be told by the MD of one of the world's largest construction companies that red tape added 20-25 per cent to UK projects.

Cllr Carter said: "So, at a time when we need to build more affordable homes for owner occupiers and for social housing, for every four units we could build, we could build a fifth one free.



PAUL CARTER

"That is a most extraordinary waste of public money that this country can no longer afford, so I'm really on a mission to wake up government to the construction industry and how this country has got to change if the economy is to move forward.

"We have to have a bonfire of regulation and the imposition of bureaucracy on businesses, and I'll do all I can as leader of the largest local authority in the country."

Cllr Carter then admitted: "I feel better now I've had my rant."

But what had been a heartfelt speech, suffered a stuttering start. His first breath drew an earsplitting burst of feedback before he charged into another gaffe in a gaffe-prone week (see news section) saying: "Thankfully my businesses are in London and not in Kent ..."

This drew a mixture of gasps and chuckles from the audience, though he ploughed on for a few seconds until one voice pierced his concentration with: "You did say, 'Thankfully my businesses are in London', didn't you?'"

Cllr Carter admitted he did, but explained he said this to show he had no conflict of interest between his businesses and his public service with KCC.

Recovering, he went on to say the housing industry was now showing some "very small green shoots" of recovery, though banks could take no credit when they were asking lending rates 4.5-5 per cent above base rate – if minded to lend at all.

The KCC leader also banged the drum for his other passions – education, the economy and transport – before closing with his thinly-veiled preference for the outcome of the General Election: "I'm hoping we get a Government that believes in a smaller state, which will necessitate the employment of fewer public servants across the country; that really goes in for deregulation and makes sure banks regulate themselves appropriately and aren't just fairweather friends."

Seven making its marque

PRODUCTION of the renowned Caterham Seven lightweight two-seater sports car is to be stepped up at the firm's Dartford factory to meet demand and cut the three-to-four month waiting list.

Sales are booming at home and abroad, helped by a favourable exchange rate, and the marque was one of only three European brands at November's Tokyo Motor Show.

"We have recorded an extremely positive sales period," said Ansar Ali, MD of Caterham Cars, "adding to our capacity merely underlines our position in the market."

The Caterham, derived from a 1950s design by Lotus founder Colin Chapman and a popular 'track day' car with enthusiasts, has been continually developed over the years to the point where the current Superlight R500 performance flagship can outaccelerate supercars costing several times the price.



Conflicting economic signs ahead of poll

HEADING into General Election week, Kent businesses can reflect upon conflicting measurements of the UK's economic recovery, *writes Steve Loader*.

The first quarter of the year showed company dividends down just 2.5 per cent overall – the slowest decline since the recession hit – and twice as many firms raised shareholder payouts against those who cut.

But this confidence contrasts with the second feeble quarterly growth figure in a row (0.2 per cent) underlining the economy's fragility, though freezing weather, the return to 17.5 per cent VAT and an early Easter must be taken into account.

Economists took heart from continuing improvement in retailing and the forthcoming boost from the World Cup football finals in June, but a KPMG official warned of post-election jitters when tough decisions on the public deficit begin to take their toll, noting that none of the political parties had ruled out a VAT rise and this could impact the sector before autumn.

More positive was news that house prices rose nine per cent in March year on year and business overheads such as rent, wages and utilities were also either falling or marking time, but consumer confidence remains neutral – poised ominously to go either way.

Comment

A TRIO of inspirational guest speakers captured and then inflamed a mood of optimism at Kent 2020 Vision.

The UK economy may be limping out of recession – for the second quarter in a row we have seen feeble growth well below one per cent and way behind our European neighbours.

And a looming election hasn't helped, but Kent businesses still seem to have that extra spark. Some contacts claimed the increased number of stands had diluted the bustle of 2009's show, but the attendance was up and more stands taken surely implies more firms putting their money where their mouths are.

There were recurring themes such as going for investment now and particularly in staff, so you are ready for the real take-off – hopefully, after the election dust has settled – though some proprietors were still cautious.

To view, search 'Hewer' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Julie Maddocks speaks to Nick Hewer, Lord Sugar's right-hand man on The Apprentice, during his appearance at Kent 2020 Vision

However, you also sensed a desire to throw off the gloom of the past two years and seize upon the jokes and anecdotes of the guest speakers as much as the nuggets of knowledge and experience they dispensed.

Nick Hewer, Lord Sugar's right hand man on The Apprentrice, breezed in for the breakfast slot and cheerfully reminded an audience hosted by the Visit Kent tourist body that the programme's visit to Margate had been a tourism PR disaster for the county and that he was surprised to be invited back.

True to form though, he probably had tongue firmly in cheek, later retracting his comments in a great interview with our own Julie Maddocks (see www.businessforkent.co.uk).

Serial entrepreneur James Caan delivered his money's worth as keynote speaker with top tips and quips and by making one young entrepreneur's day (see separate story on Victoria Hart).

And the evening dinner took us well away from the cares of business to the very real death threat of an air-to-air missile on the tail of your RAF warplane during the first Gulf War – the most nerve-racking moment for former Chatham girl and the RAF's first woman jet pilot, Jo Salter (see news section).

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

Caan-do attitude to coping in recession

DRAGONS' Den star James Caan told delegates at the Kent 2020 Vision show that recessions do not have to be the business disaster we think they are, ***writes Steve Loader***.

The keynote speaker at the show – held at the County Showground at Detling, near Maidstone – told a packed audience: "Yes, I think it's demotivating. Yes, I think it's difficult and challenging. But if I'm frank and honest, those are probably the periods when I learnt the most and, with entrepreneurs as business people, I think that's what separates the men from the boys."

People could be successful and build great businesses during a boom but he added: "That doesn't take skill and talent – that's what I call 'riding the market' – but when things get difficult, the question is, what do you do then?"

And the man who built a multi-million-pound recruitment empire from setting up in a tiny office at 21, was not being smug, because he confessed that he nearly lost it all in the early 1990s when a client failed to pay and he couldn't meet his wage bill.

But it was the loyalty of his staff, he said, that saved the day and he stressed how business people needed to value the people who work for them, building the right 'culture'.

His top tip on the day was to start looking to build staff numbers while recruitment/salary costs were stable and before the economy started taking off again.

He was also passionate about using 'internships' – bringing in bright and enthusiastic graduates to give them the work experience they wanted so desperately for their CVs and who could bring, in return, fresh thoughts and ways of doing things.

It was a theme picked up later by Cllr Kevin Lynes, KCC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, who brought two friends to the final speech of the day. One was Pauline Smith, who heads KCC's apprenticeship programme, and the other was one of the scheme's keen young participants, Keith Jackson.

Cllr Lynes told delegates that they needed 'a Keith' to bring new enthusiasm and blood to their businesses and to recognise that form-filling and bureaucratic obstacles that used to bedevil apprenticeships had been swept away.

Earlier Visit Kent had launched its eye-catching new 'Kent Contemporary' tourism campaign, backed initially by a £400,000 KCC grant and justifiable against tourism's ranking as the UK's fifth most valuable industry and one worth a cool £2.5 billion to Kent alone and set to grow with a favourable exchange rate.

• ***More on KCC's apprenticeships initiative next week in an exclusive interview with Cllr Kevin Lynes.***

2020 SOUNDBITES

• **"Only last year, Yorkshire used the phrase – ill-advisedly – 'Yorkshire is now the Garden of England' in a promotional video. In their dreams, ladies and gentlemen."**
Visit Kent's Amanda Cottrell in defence of Kent's famous title at the launch of the Kent Contemporary campaign

• **"This is the real Margate Challenge. Not to make Turner Contemporary work, but to make Margate work. Because tourists will ask: Can I get there in less than four hours; where will I stay; is there anything else to do; how good are the beaches: are there any decent restaurants; and is Dreamland open yet?"**
Tourism South East chairman John Williams

• **"The staycation effect is real, domestic holidays to the South East last year were up a third and the exchange rate is still favourable, making us good value to our friends in France – that's why so many of them could be here today."**
John Williams again



• Nick Hewer, pictured right, of The Apprentice, on meeting the late Clement Freud: **"He said: 'I've watched that show. You don't do a bad job.**

"I said: 'Coming from a man of your lineage – grandson of Sigmund, brother of Lucien – I take that as huge compliment because I am a complete fraud'. He looked at me, his lip curled a tiny bit and he said: 'No, I am a complete Freud.' And with that he walked away."



• **"If I called a client and said: 'Hi, this is James from James Caan Associates', it would be so obvious I was a one-man band. So if I called it Alexander Mann then at least there would be two of us."**
James Caan, pictured right, on naming the recruitment business he founded at 21



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Student overcomes nerves to win help from her Dragons' Den hero

KEYNOTE speaker James Caan rewarded a Larkfield student for her bravery in front of hundreds of other business people at the Kent 2020 Vision show.

The entrepreneur had outlined how his companies benefited from giving ambitious students work experience 'internships' to inject fresh thinking and new strategies.

"What do you have to do to get one?" asked Victoria Hart, 21, drawing a round of applause during questions from the floor and with an eye on the end of her three-year course in business studies at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The businessman, who made his fortune in recruitment and now runs a string of companies, earned applause in return by not only inviting her to apply via his websites, but telling her to add a note: "Say you saw me at Kent 2020 and I will get somebody to come back to you."



INSPIRED: Canterbury Christ Church University's Victoria Hart

Nerves were only half the battle for Victoria in standing up, as she was also using a crutch following hip surgery.

But she said she had been inspired by Mr Caan's speech and by the urge to start her own business once her studies end.

A fluent speaker of French and Spanish, she originally took a languages degree at the University of Bath, but left when she realised it wasn't for her and switched to the business course at Canterbury.

Once there and inspired by the subject, she quickly caught up on course work she had missed.

She loves Dragons' Den and James Caan is one of her favourites from the hit entrepreneurial show

"He's nice, very inspirational and very charismatic," she said.

Clearly charged by encouragement from her hero, she spoke afterwards of her ambition to start a marketing company, outsourcing ideas and skills to other small companies at a time when many cannot afford in-house marketing advice.

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

SMALL, family-run removals firm Andrews of Kent is one of just five finalists shortlisted for the Domestic Mover of the Year award on May 15.

It is the second time the British Association of Removers (BAR) has held the contest – and the second time the Ramsgate company has reached this stage. Companies are judged on professionalism, commitment and leadership, and customer service in the domestic removals market.

The testing includes a 'mystery shopping' exercise. Andrews was founded in 2001 by father and son Allan and Andy Small. They operate four vehicles and employ six staff at their 6,000 sq ft warehouse and offer domestic and international removals as well as storage.

FITTINGLY, Protect Kent – the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England – used the Pines Calyx sustainable conference centre at St Margaret's Bay, near Dover, for its 2010 Protect Kent Energy Conference.

This year's theme was 'Keeping the lights on' and the keynote speaker was Sir Crispin Tickell, an expert on climate change and environmental issues, and a former Chancellor of the University of Kent. He gave an overview of energy production alternatives and what to expect from a world in which climate destabilisation takes effect.

"Kent is very vulnerable," said Sir Crispin, outlining predictions of more storms and droughts for the county. He also called for a "coherent view" on climate change strategy by the next government.

HOW Planning has been appointed by Liberty Property Trust to provide planning and retail advice on a mixed-use community scheme in Kings Hill.

The Manchester-based firm will develop a master plan for the 320-hectare development mixing residential, commercial, retail, sports and leisure and education uses.

Applications will be submitted this summer alongside a listed building consent application for the redevelopment of the Grade-II listed aircraft control tower, at what was the former Maidstone Airport and then the Battle of Britain airfield of West Malling.

BUSINESS people directly or indirectly affected by the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud can get help from www.businesslink.gov.uk/volcanicash.

The eruption started on March 20 and grounded flights across the UK and Europe, prompting the Business Link website advice on:

- What to do if staff are stranded overseas.
- Implications of import and export suspensions and delays.
- Potential health implications to staff.
- What to do if you couldn't attend offshore trade shows, events and meetings, or if preparations for such events have been compromised.
- Business continuity planning.
- Managing risk.

EXPERTS from the University of Kent are holding a master class for small and medium-sized firms on May 27. Titled 'Leading your way to recovery: embracing challenges and exploiting opportunities in the new decade', it has been organised by the Centre for Employment, Competitiveness and Growth, part of the university's Kent Business School.

The event will also focus on leadership skills and actions needed to improve how firms deliver results. The workshop costs £125. Click on https://store.kent.ac.uk/events/event-details.asp?eventid=23 for details.

Picture: DAN DESBOROUGH



SEEN AND HERD: African wildlife in deepest, darkest Kent – courtesy of Port Lympne

African safari experience is a winner with tourism body

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park has won a national tourism award for delivering the atmosphere of an African safari, ***writes Business Editor Steve Loader***.

The park's Livingstone Lodge is claimed to be the only authentic overnight safari experience in the northern hemisphere and struck gold in the Best Tourism Experience category at the Visit England Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2010.

Bob O'Connor, MD of Port Lympne and its sister park Howletts, near Canterbury, said: "This kind of national recognition is a real boost to the staff who all work so hard to provide a truly exceptional product.

"Livingstone Lodge is a unique attraction that is going from strength to strength and we are justly proud of it.

"Not only does it offer an experience right out of Africa, but all the money it raises goes towards the Aspinall Foundation and its work with endangered animals around the world."



STRIKING GOLD: Port Lympne's Bob O'Connor with the park's gold award, presented by Visit England's Dennis Wormwell (left) and comedian and author Tony Hawks

The lodge had already scooped gold in the regional heats, despite tough competition.

Set in the stunning scenery of The African Experience at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, between Ashford and Hythe, the 10 lodges within the Livingstone development look out over herds of free-roaming African wildlife including giraffe, black rhino, ostrich, wildebeest, zebra and antelope.

Guests also enjoy traditional African dining and a dawn safari while enjoying the park's spectacular views over the English Channel and expert guidance by a Zimbabwean safari park ranger.

The Enjoy England awards were held in Brighton on St George's Day and included 46 national finalists drawn from more than 100 regional winners.

Kent man's role in cinema deal

A COMPANY still billed as the "the greatest name in cinema advertising" has been sold for £10 million in a deal brokered by a Kent lawyer and self-confessed cinema fan.

Empire Cinemas' director Justin Ribbons of Bonnington, near Ashford, helped put together a package that saw Pearl & Dean – the cinema advertising business famous for its "pah-pah, pah-pah, pa-pa-pah" jingle – taken on by a new company, Image Ltd, set up by another Empire director and sole shareholder, Thomas Anderson.

Pearl & Dean lost £13.3m last year due to a disadvantageous contract, now ended, with another cinema chain, Vue.



The new deal allows a major realignment within the UK screen industry, which sees Empire move its 16-site/146-screen advertising rights away from Pearl & Dean's arch-rival and sector number one Digital Cinema Media – a joint venture between Empire's cinema rivals, the Odeon and Cineworld.

Acquiring Empire's business takes Pearl & Dean's admission market share for UK cinemas to more than 40 per cent, its highest in more than six years.

Pearl & Dean's former owner STV hunted a buyer for four years in an attempt to re-structure after an ambitious, but ultimately unsuccessful, expansion and diversification from its former life as broadcaster Scottish TV.

It bought the advertising business in 1999, when the then STV management team famously re-labelled the ladies' and gents' toilets at its Glasgow HQ 'Pearl' and 'Dean'.



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My generation: New age dawns for older staff in changed world

Post-recession employment and staffing levels have been key topics this week at county and national level, prompted by the Kent 2020 Vision business show and the General Election. Much of this debate has been about the role younger people – school leavers and graduates – can and need to play in repairing the car crash that is the UK economy. But what about the reservoir of experience represented by the older generation, still keen to play their part and pay their way? CHRIS BRITCHER spoke to a seasoned campaigner who has launched a new recruitment proposition – for his own generation.


BRIAN KENT

KOS media BUSINESS WEEK **THE BIG INTERVIEW**

CAN there be a better economic barometer than the recruitment industry? The ebb and flow of hiring and firing sends out the clearest signals of growth and decline.

But what about a recruitment firm with a difference? Where candidates are rich in experience but perhaps poor in opportunities? Welcome to The Really Caring 60+ Recruitment Company, which is already finding more optimism in 2010 against 2009.

As the name suggests, this niche operation specialises only in over-60s placements and more than 1,000 jobseekers have contacted proprietor Brian Kent since he launched the firm in Tunbridge Wells, some three years ago.

"Last year was bad," he admitted. "We placed 60 jobs in the first year, but it came to a bit of an abrupt halt in year two.

"This year it's gone in the opposite direction. It's dangerous to say things are getting better, but there is a feeling that confidence is back. But I do fear there may be more uncertainty after the election."

The venture has cost the 71-year-old former pharmaceuticals industry director and entrepreneur much of his savings, but he is determined to see it snowball into a successful commercial enterprise: "I've started businesses before and I know you don't expect to be hitting profit or even breaking even at this early stage."

He's set himself 10 years to see real returns and this month sees his first licensee take the concept outside of Kent's borders.

And the thinking behind it is simple: "In less than 20 years in the UK there will be some 11 million over-60s – representing a third of the workforce," said Mr Kent.

"Employers, whether they like it or not, are going to have to dip into that pool. This is one powerful group of people. The problem of this demographic has to be redressed.

"The country cannot afford to ignore it, pensions are on the wane, and the Treasury's own figures show they could benefit by up to £31bn a year if they relaxed the statutory retirement age of 65.

'My Business Week …'

by Keith Newman, Kent managing partner for Horwath Clark Whitehill



MONDAY – Started week with HR issues, not something I normally relish but it was good news as we're promoting and on lookout for recruits.
Rest of morning spent doing file reviews for a number of clients, including preparation for year ends and audit clearance. The heady life of an accountant!Then meeting with our insolvency colleagues at HCW Recovery Solutions, not surprisingly their caseload is expanding and continuing its upward trend. Big danger is companies overtrading as we emerge from recession. It's traditionally a time when more companies go to the wall than actually do during the downturn.

TUESDAY – In early, as longstanding London client has HMRC issues and so met him with tax partner Simon Warne re: 'tax mitigation' – that's how to pay less to the likes of you and me. Quick lunch, before taking a train to meet one of our listed clients in the food industry who's showing his competitors a clean pair of heels.

WEDNESDAY – Car in garage. Blasted potholes equal a licence to print money! Mark Anderson (HCW partner) and I, along with recently arrived partner John Dent, met major prospect, a marine construction contractor. With the push for offshore renewable energy, it looks like they are in the right place at the right time. Afternoon reviewed proposal to large Kent charity; the firm's a recognised national expert. Let's hope charity really does begin at home as this sector needs all the help it can get at the moment to raise funds.

THURSDAY – Spent day with Andrew Pianca, HCW's chief executive. Kent's two offices are expanding and help make HCW one of the UK's leading accountancy practices. Working lunch with Sam Coutinho, who heads national marketing, to discuss an exciting new initiative – sorry, can't say too much! Back to Kent for drinks reception, there's only so much orange juice a man can take: "Taxi for Newman!"

FRIDAY – For once diary looked good and stayed that way! Two meetings in Maidstone, including one with a manufacturing client, followed by a trip to our TW offices for lunch with a leading firm of lawyers. Then a bit of late afternoon networking with colleagues and other members of the town's business community – time well spent. Finished with a cry of: "Bring on the weekend."





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BACK OF THE QUEUE: Being overlooked in favour of younger applicants led Brian Kent to set up his own 60-plus recruiting agency

"People live longer now. People in their 60s don't just drop dead. We are living healthily now. The first person to live to 150 has already been born, the scientists are telling us.

"Why should older people be part of workplace? Experience – you can't learn it – it's a long and painful process. We've been there and got the bruises to prove it. The other reason, on a comparative basis, is that we're pretty well educated and have a whole set of values patently missing from society. If we say we'll get a job done, we'll do it. It means we'll work the extra hours to do it."

Born in Seal, near Sevenoaks, Mr Kent started in sales and marketing, going on to run an international company involved in the design and scheduling of hospital laboratories. He found himself out of work as he hit retirement age, but desperate to keep on working.

Finding recruitment agencies unsatisfactory for people of his age group, a chat with a friend sowed the seed for his new venture.

The agency works on a membership basis, with members and potential employers benefiting from networking opportunities. Mr Kent said: "It's all based on the old-fashioned principle of getting to know people — of seeing the whites of their eyes.

"Now we have about 80 local employers who look to us, significantly all willing – and a great many of them would prefer – to hire older people.

"And the reasons are well known: we're dead keen to work, money isn't the most important thing and we have all these old-fashioned standards like respect, loyalty and getting the job done.

"The interesting thing is the way we go about it. If you send off your CV to HR departments, it's just a complete and utter waste of time, so we make all our approaches directly to the decision makers – the company directors. Most of them are nearer our age than their HR departments."

He claims to have placed everything from company CEOs to part-time gardeners. He reckons 30 per cent of those on his books ended their working lives on six-figure salaries, but now have different priorities.

"They'd be happy to earn £25,000 a year for doing something which is interesting – gives them a reason to get up in the morning," Mr Kent explained. "It used to be the theory that you had to exercise muscles to keep them healthy but the brain was completely different. Now it is proven there are people in rest homes going crazy simply because they have nothing to do.

"So it's a win-win to employ us. First you stave off dementia and the cost of looking after sufferers. Instead of having someone dependant on society – they are making a contribution."

BRIAN'S TOP TIPS

- Good business is about communication and forming relationships
- Customer service has to be impeccable – accept that some are better at it than others, but always try to be as good as you can
- Older jobseekers can deliver a customer service level that just isn't understood by younger job applicants. Ask yourself why people go into B&Q – which makes a big thing about recruiting older people – and make a bee-line for 'Bill', the older chap with the grey hair. Of course, the problem is that poor old Bill starts to become indispensable to the manager because he's so good with customers and ends up working every day of the week – all on minimum wage.

Brian Kent's CV

- Mid-1960s – Medical school but switched to sales in pharmaceutical industry at 26.
- 1968 – Sales and marketing director of Italian drugs firm.
- 1973 – Founded medical devices firm, MediKent in St Albans, building it into a multi-million-pound international concern.
- Early 1990s – Moved to Devon where he set up and later franchised a tea and coffee supply business, Eastern Tea and Co, while also operating as a small-business consultant.
- 2000 – Sold tea business and returned to Kent.
- 2003 – Returned to pharmaceutical industry in senior role, but asked to retire at statutory age, after which he became disillusioned with "youth-orientated" recruitment agencies and set up on his own: "It was a road to Damascus move – I then knew what I wanted to do with the rest of my life."

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'Tally-ho' for Spitfire trade

SHEPHERD Neame has launched an innovative summer campaign giving publicans the chance to win up to £30,000 off their rent bill for a year.

It is the first stage of Operation Landlord, aimed at trade customers for the Faversham-based brewer's award-winning Spitfire ale.

Via entertaining promotional material – an area where the brand has made headlines before – entrants are invited to text in to qualify for the prize draw in June.

A further 19 prizes of £250 are available for runners-up and hundreds of Spitfire polo shirts are up for grabs.

The brand's 'Goering Goering Gone' slogan has also been revived as part of a new portfolio of point-of-sale material, T-shirts and branded glassware.

Further activity for 2010 includes a new consumer website and trade and consumer ad campaign.



Newly-appointed marketing manager Mark Miller said: "Operation Landlord will help us build long-term relationships with licensees.

"We know pubs want to stock vibrant, active brands that engage with consumers and increase rate of sale.

"This campaign – including our new website and a social media strategy – is the first stage in a developing campaign to help licensees."

Spitfire Premium Kentish Ale was first brewed in 1990 as a limited edition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and raise money for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

It has since become an established brand and helped raise more than £200,000 for Armed Forces charities.



Loyalty bonus an advantage in the recovery

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

THE ill-wind of recession has blown some good – a survey shows a quarter of employees in Kent say they are more loyal to their employer as a direct result of the economic downturn.

The findings from Kelly Services, taken from early October, 2009, and at the end of January, 2010, reveal 23 per cent say the economic downturn has made them more loyal, while nine per cent say it has made them less loyal and 68 per cent say it has made no difference.

And Kent workers have been shown to be more loyal than those in Cardiff and Newcastle upon Tyne (both 22 per cent).

Furthermore, 37 per cent of Kent workers say they are "totally committed" to their job, against 31 per cent in Cardiff.

Those workers who are more loyal to their employers attribute the shift to positive management, good company morale and active communication from senior executives.

Those who are less loyal cite poor management and low morale.

The impact of the economic slowdown on work attitudes has been greatest among the youngest and what is usually the most carefree age group – Generation Y (aged 18-29) – where 30 per cent say the downturn has made them more loyal.

This compares with 25 per cent of Generation X (aged 30-47) and 22 per cent of baby boomers (aged 48-65).

The findings are part of the Kelly Global Workforce Index canvassing almost 6,000 people in the UK.

Psychologist Dr Linda Papadopoulos said: "There are several factors implicated in the levels of commitment and loyalty employees feel towards employers, but central to this is a sense of being valued.

"This can come in various forms, from monetary incentives to management style, but ultimately if employees feel their company has gone that extra mile during difficult times to ensure they are secure and happy in their role, then that sense of loyalty is much more likely to be reciprocated.

"In addition, the fact that many employers are seen as being ruthless when it comes to culling workforce numbers at times of crisis, working for a team that values their employees during difficult times is going to be regarded as comparatively rare and therefore more valuable."

Kelly Services general manager John Callagher said: "The recession has been challenging for everyone, but the findings clearly show that those employers who have communicated openly about the difficult conditions and who have tried to look after staff have been able to build strong levels of trust within their organisations.

"As the economy recovers, this heightened loyalty will stand them in good stead, giving a competitive advantage as a result of a more committed and focused workforce."



CUP OF CHEER: Loyalty shown to staff will be repaid as staff go the extra mile

"NatWest have helped my T-shirt printing business go from medium to large"

Andrew Hodgson, Managing Director of Advartex



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HIGHWAYS and maintenance contractor FM Conway claims to have become the first UK wastewater and aggregates recycler to open a drainage treatment plant 24 hours a day, five days a week.

The site at FM Conway's Dartford head office is operated by the group's cleansing division and separates out the water in waste drawn from blocked gullies, culverts and other systems. This is then used for the company's own aggregates washing facility, recycling millions of tonnes of water every year.

Director of cleansing Tristan Miles said: "FM Conway takes its environmental responsibilities seriously and our wastewater recycling plant can be utilised by councils across the country.

"The plant also separates out materials such as sand and stone, which can be used in concrete. In effect, the more we invest in technologies and processes, the more we recycle and less waste is sent to landfill."



Founded in 1961, FM Conway now employs more than 1,800 people.

Simon's ParaRail return ticket

FAST-growing Kent building services company ParaRail has expanded its operations to cover the region north of the Thames.

The company, based at Ruckinge, near Ashford, now has a new regional office in Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire, to service projects in the northern Home Counties, East Anglia and the Midlands.

And Simon Lawrence has rejoined ParaRail to run the new regional office. He previously worked for the company between 2000 and 2008.


BACK: Simon Lawrence

ParaRail has doubled its turnover in each of the last two years and is on course for another big increase this year. The company grew from the reorganisation of British Rail in 1996 and many senior executives are ex-railway building works managers.

One of its major projects is a £16.2 million three-year programme of remedial works at 185 stations and 12 depots throughout Kent and south-east London, creating dozens of new jobs for skilled mechanical and electrical engineers, painters, carpenters and bricklayers and making ParaRail one of the largest private sector employers in the Ashford area.

Last year it formed a new division, ParaConstruction, to operate alongside the rail business and raise the company profile in the general building, construction, refurbishment, mechanical and electrical engineering, and facilities management markets.

ParaRail MD Lee Ruston said: "We previously handled contracts north of the Thames from our Kent base, but a significant increase in business over the last 18 months made it sensible to provide a more local presence. We are excited by its potential for considerable growth."

BUSINESS WEEK SPOTLIGHT

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

Firm 'sales' for greener horizons

DOVER is about to see a new and futuristic ship launched – but it's some way from the busy Channel port, ***writes Steve Loader***.

It is, in fact, an all-new eco-friendly office development rising on the heights above Dover at Whitfield's Beechwood Business Park and clearly inspired by the maritime heritage of the area – it even has what looks like a funnel and 'floats' on a sea of super-insulating polystyrene.

But while it has elegance and eye-catching appeal far above the usual functionality of modern offices, it is what lies behind the superstructure that will catch the eye of potential tenants.

Because this development – a speculative venture by developer WCR Property – is believed to be the first commercial office development in the UK built to exacting German Passiv Haus environmental standards, a code also used by Hadlow College in its newly-opened Rural Regeneration Centre.

The developer certainly has no doubt that it is the country's most energy-efficient office building ever, delivering the lowest possible running costs and promoting a healthier and more relaxing office environment.

The 5,000 sq ft offices – the fourth development by WCR on this site – feature the highest levels of insulation and natural solar energy re-use. As the building heats up naturally through sunlight, internal systems recover and reuse the heat to maintain a comfortable working environment all year round.



HAUS PROUD: Artist's impression of the eco-friendly WCR Property venture at Dover

Windows have been positioned with care to harvest the most sunshine on the site, but also fitted with automatic blinds to regulate heat and light into the building on the brightest days. There is also minimal heat and energy loss due to a virtually airtight super-insulated shell. Apart from the pleasing appearance of the building, with its glassy 'ship's bridge' looking out to the road in front, there is also a rear deck garden and living grass roof that also absorbs water and generates oxygen – all rainwater is harvested and used to run the toilets and 'grey water' systems. It is estimated the new build, when complete, will generate 80 per cent fewer emissions, against increasingly stringent standard build parameters.

WCR director William Record said: "We are leading the UK in this area which makes this a very exciting development, especially for Dover. To be at the forefront of eco-construction is fundamental to our strategy. We believe our building provides what will become the predominant commercial model."

The company's Mike Wallace said the development offered future occupiers "a highly original and physically beneficial building. When people feel good their productivity rises and the organisation benefits".

It is also clear that, above and beyond the commercial potential for Passiv Haus – WCR has two further sites at Beechwood that could be used for bigger versions – there is also clearly a passion for the building technique. Project manager and architect Terry Hill said: "Buildings like this will not take off overnight. People have to be made to see the benefits of it, but once enlightened – like us – they can see the potential.

"This is one reason why we wanted the building to look inviting and I took much of my inspiration from the De La Warr Pavilion [in Bexhill]. Once people look further they then see all the other benefits."

Mr Hill's eureka moment came after four years of studies with the Centre of Alternative Technology. He said: "I've been a project manager, engineer and architect, but you never stop learning and this gave me the drive to find out all I could about this new building technique."

Sunflower contest is hotting up for July

AS PART of a 'join us and grow' campaign, Basepoint Business Centres is joining forces with Kent schools in a sunflower growing race to win a share of £7,000 of vouchers for books and IT equipment.

The competition launched this month – the best time to plant sunflower seeds – will run throughout the summer.

Some 40 schools local to Basepoint's Kent sites at Chatham, Northfleet, Canterbury and Folkestone are expected to join the contest, which extends across areas covered by the company's 26 business centres throughout the country.

Kent schools already signed up include Saltwood Primary in Folkestone, St Thomas's Catholic Primary in Canterbury, Meath Green Lane in Northfleet and Greenfields Nursery in Folkestone.

The school with the tallest sunflower in each area will receive a prize of £250 of vouchers.

The winning schools from each area then go head to head for the chance to win an additional £500 in vouchers.



PLANTING SEEDS: Children and staff at Greenfields Nursery in Folkestone are going for growth with their sunflower seeds

Basepoint director Brian Andrews said: "We see ourselves as playing an important role in contributing to the community; as well as helping local businesses to flourish, we want to support and encourage the younger generation."

The competition will be judged and a winner announced in July. Basepoint runs managed offices and workshop facilities for start-up and growing businesses and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the ACT Foundation charity, dedicated to improving the quality of life of those in need.

Elephant's trunks



SPADEWORK: Peter Walkden of BTCV with Suzie Jones of Elephant Windows, planting the first sapling at Dane Valley Woods

ELEPHANT, the Kent window and conservatory firm, has started an environmental project to plant a tree every time a conservatory is sold.

It links with the firm's green policy to recycle old windows it replaces.

Six saplings have already been planted at Dane Valley Woods, near Margate, and the scheme is run in conjunction with eforests and British Trust Conversation Volunteers (BTCV).

Elephant's Duncan Barkes said: "We are committed to planting a tree every time we build a conservatory. As a Kent business we want to support local projects and initiatives that enhance our county."

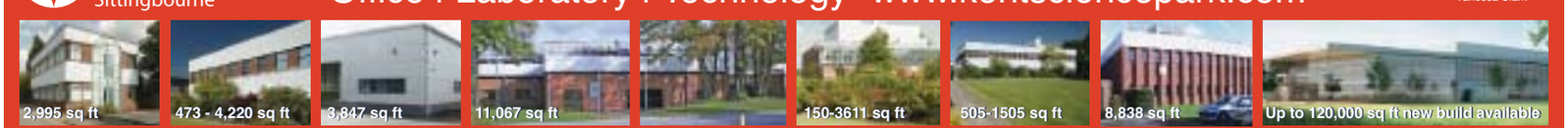
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A roller-coaster season

After a mix of promotion, play-off battles and relegation fights for our county clubs, chief sports reporter **DAVID PRITCHARD** runs the rule over the winners and losers of another action-packed year





SEASON'S BEST: Dartford (left, in red) and Folkestone Invicta were two stand-out Kent clubs after both had superb campaigns

EBBSFLEET UNITED
22nd, Blue Square Premier

THE FA Trophy victory at Wembley in 2008 seems a lifetime ago as Ebbsfleet United drop out of the Blue Square Premier following another turbulent season at Stonebridge Road.

Financial difficulties stemming from the MyFootballClub project left manager Liam Daish with little time and even less money to assemble a scratch squad last summer.

A season spent almost entirely in the bottom four followed, but despite a brave effort in the second half of the season, they fell just short of safety.

7 OUT OF 10 FOR DAISH
2 OUT OF 10 FOR THE FLEET

DOVER ATHLETIC
2nd, Blue Square South

AFTER two seasons of non-stop success, Dover fans have had to get used to the unfamiliar sight of their team losing from time to time.

The Whites got away to a strong start, but any hopes of a third straight title were ended by a superb Newport County side.

Dover looked to be fading in the spring but eight straight wins helped them scoop a place in the play-offs, eventually finishing second.

8 OUT OF 10

JOINT TEAM OF THE YEAR
DARTFORD
CHAMPIONS: Ryman Premier

THE outstanding team in the division, Dartford romped to their second league title in three seasons.

Tony Burman's side topped the table for all but the first three days and their greatest danger was complacency, with their lead in double figures for most of the season.

A 2-0 win at Bognor on the final day saw the prolific Darts break the 100-goal barrier. With average crowds almost touching 1,200 and Princes Park the envy of many clubs further up the pyramid, they are well equipped to make an impact in Blue Square South.

9 OUT OF 10

TONBRIDGE ANGELS
8th, Ryman Premier

NOT many teams threatened with relegation in February finish the campaign irritated they missed out on the play-offs, but it is precisely what happened at Longmead.

A solid start was undermined by budget cuts which saw several key players, including Carl Rook and Steve Ferguson, leave.

A catastrophic loss of form saw the club tumble down towards the bottom four, before an unlikely tilt for the play-offs followed, but five games in the last nine days of the season derailed their challenge.

7 OUT OF 10

CRAY WANDERERS
15th, Ryman Premier

NEWLY promoted and with a relative lack of resources, many observers had Cray Wanderers down for a season of struggle.

Ian Jenkins' side did little in the first half of the season to change anyone's minds, winning just five of their first 24 games. But they were always a difficult side to beat and slowly Wanderers adjusted to the division and a decent spell in the spring ensured they were clear of the relegation scrap in the final weeks of the season.

7 OUT OF 10

MAIDSTONE UNITED
18th, Ryman Premier

ANOTHER trying season for the Stones, whose only saving grace was avoiding a repeat of two seasons ago, when they escaped relegation on the final day.

This time survival was guaranteed with a win in their penultimate fixture, but it was an otherwise desperate campaign.

Several players jumped ship to fellow strugglers Margate, while long-serving managerial duo Alan Walker and Lloyd Hume also departed, but caretaker boss Peter Nott deserves credit for keeping the club up.

5 OUT OF 10

MARGATE
19th, Ryman Premier

ANOTHER chaotic season at Hartsdown Park was largely down to the club's actions, which saw three managers take over the reins.

Terry Yorath departed in September unhappy at the Blues' early season form, while his replacement, Mark Butler, lasted 12 games before he quit after the board declined to give him a contract.

Iain O'Connell was installed, with a contract, a fortnight later. The new boss steered the side to a nine-game unbeaten run but they still finished fourth bottom. Despite this they could avoid relegation for the second successive year on an administrative technicality due to clubs above them going bust.

4 OUT OF 10

JOINT TEAM OF THE YEAR
FOLKESTONE INVICTA
2nd, Ryman Division One South

THE Seasiders' against-the-odds season belongs more to a Hollywood script than reality, with fans pinching themselves all year.

Financial problems meant there was some doubt whether the club would even begin the season. Invicta remained in the title race even with the imposition of a 10-point penalty for entering administration.

They eventually finished second, although without the penalty they would have been champions. Victory in yesterday's play-off final would have sealed an unbelievable campaign.

9 OUT OF 10

SITTINGBOURNE
9th, Ryman South

AN overpowering sense of déjà vu surrounded Bourne Park at the end of the season as Sittingbourne finished just shy of the play-offs again.

Gary Abbott's small squad were adept at getting results against the division's top sides, but regularly slipped up against the more agricultural teams at the bottom.

The brutal winter left them with an exhausting schedule in the final weeks which scuppered any hopes of a top-five finish.

7 OUT OF 10

RAMSGATE
14th, Ryman South

AFTER relegation last season the Rams were expected to challenge for the play-offs, but it turned into a largely forgettable campaign.

In August they spent just a few days in the top five, before settling into a season of underachievement. The low point was a 6-1 thrashing against Sittingbourne at Southwood in January, a result from which the side never truly recovered as they finished mid-table.

5 OUT OF 10

CHATHAM TOWN
17th, Ryman South

ALEX O'Brien experienced a crash course in his first season in management as boss of Chatham Town.

Everything looked in place for a decent campaign as the Chats flirted with the play-off positions for much of the first half of the season. It went steadily downhill from December as the side won just five of their last 21 games.

A lack of training facilities and losing strikers Lee Barnett and Brendon Cass in the spring hardly helped, but even with their problems 17th place represented significant underachievement.

5 OUT OF 10

WHITSTABLE TOWN
18th, Ryman South

THE Oystermen's three-year stay in the Ryman South looked to be under threat until a strong finish to the campaign under caretaker boss Mark Lane.

Mark Munday lost his job in March with the club bottom, but an impressive six wins from 10 games under Lane followed to steer Town to safety, which should be seen as a success for a club with relatively meagre resources.

6 OUT OF 10

ASHFORD TOWN
20th, Ryman South

IT IS testament to how awful the season has been at Homelands that avoiding relegation was seen as an achievement.

The seeds of a dire campaign were sown before a ball had even been kicked. Problems in the boardroom saw most of a disaffected squad leave amid the uncertainty, leaving manager Steve Lovell a rush job to assemble a squad.

The Nuts and Bolts looked doomed, winning just 10 points by the turn of the year. A revival of sorts followed, but there needs to be big changes to match the club's sizeable ambitions.

4 OUT OF 10



Cricket at the St Lawrence Ground

Sunday 2 May
Kent Spitfires
v Durham Dynamos

Gates open 11.45am Start time 1.45pm

Tuesday 4 May - Friday 7 May
Kent v Warwickshire

Gates open 9.00am Start time 11.00am

Kent County Cricket Club

Tel: 01227 456886 Email: communications.kent@ecb.co.uk Web: www.kentccc.com

Timeline

This week KOS Media sport look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** FORMER Kent cricketer and Charlton Athletic footballer Sid O'Linn was called into the South African side for the opening match of the Springboks' tour in Worcester – pitting him against Ron Headley, father of Dean.

In golf Kent got off to a poor start in their opening match of the South Eastern Division season, the county's women going down to a 6-3 defeat against Middlesex at Seaford.

Kent's DJ Robinson made it through to the next stage of the small-bore rifle association's Olympic trials, after a successful meeting at Bisley.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** THE opening game of the County Championship saw Kent and Surrey fight each other to a standstill at Canterbury.

Batting first, Kent lost opener Mark Benson for a duck, but 92 from Simon Hinks and 159 from Chris Cowdrey helped them post 336 all out.

Surrey's reply looked to be in trouble when they lurched to 41 for 4, but Alec Stewart made 158 and put on 252 for the fifth wicket with Monty Lynch, who made 115.

Closing on 445 for 9 declared, Surrey effectively ended Kent's hopes of a win and the highlight of an otherwise meaningless second innings by the home side was 111 from Derek Aslett.

In Division Three Gillingham were fifth, after a 3-2 win over Lincoln at Priestfield.

In the Gola League, Dartford were beaten 2-1 at Watling Street by Gateshead, while Maidstone were held to a 2-2 draw by Scarborough at the Athletic Ground.

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** GILLINGHAM looked to be on course for automatic promotion to the second tier of English football, for the first time in the club's history, after thrashing Cardiff City 4-1 in their final home game of the season.

A near sellout crowd at Priestfield (9,178) saw Carl Asaba score a hat-trick.

The striker struck in the 11th and 36th minutes, either side of a Nicky Southall effort, and completed his treble just before the hour mark.

The result meant the Gills would secure promotion if they could win their final game of the season at Wrexham.



TRY HARD: Eighteen clubs will battle it out for the Kent Spitfire Sevens title

Kamikaze raid on sevens title

By **STEVE TERVET**

CANTERBURY Rugby Club again plays host to the Kent Spitfire Sevens today as the revitalised tournament continues to go from strength to strength.

Since merging the dilapidated county competition with their own sevens event, Canterbury have breathed new life into the tournament and this year sees 18 clubs battling it out to claim the winners' cheque for £500.

A crowd of up to 500 is expected to turn out with sides from Kent competing against invitational teams from outside the county, including last year's champions, Kamikaze.

The London-based side go in as favourites but Canterbury press officer David Haigh expects fierce competition and a feast of entertaining rugby.

He said: "Since we took it over we've revived it as a county sevens, it's given it a real shot in the arm. The county sevens had fallen into disrepair but it's four years since we took it over and it's been a great success.

"Kamikaze were formed by Jeremy Walmsley, a former Canterbury player, and they're always a good side.

"We've got the RAF team with us again and they're going to be strong and Old Tonbridgians have entered a side so they're an unknown quantity. It looks as though it's going to be close again."

The host club will field a development team and a social side, with the first XV having taken on Rosslyn Park in National 2 South yesterday.

The day's overall winners will collect the Hallwood Shield while the best-performing Kent side walks away with the Cornwallis Cup.

The first game gets under way at 12pm.

KENT SIDES: Anchorians, Beccehamians, Bromley, Canterbury Development, Canterbury Gentlemen, Cranbrook, Deal & Betteshanger Lions, Gravesend, Maidstone, Old Tonbridgians, Sidcup, University of Kent

GUEST SIDES: Apaches, Kamikaze, Olaf's Axes, RAF Spitfires, Racing Warthogs, Warlingham.

Kent side make up for 2009 cup defeat

IMPROVED co-operation from clubs and better preparation have been credited as key factors in Kent winning their first FA County Youth Cup last weekend.

Andrew Miller scored the only goal of the game at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium as Kent's under-18s beat their counterparts from Sheffield & Hallamshire.

It was the first time Kent had won the trophy in its 65-year history and helped make amends for the defeat to Birmingham in last year's final.

Ken Brooke, team manager, believes the experience of losing 12 months ago counted in his side's favour.

He said: "We were much better prepared than last year in a number of areas. Our boys were looking fairly relaxed and you could see on the faces of the opposition they were a bit nervous.

"They deserved it and it made up for last year. I'm hoping it means something special."

It marked the end of a three-year plan from the Kent County Football Association to win the trophy, which ensured the victory was no fluke.

Both the under-16s and under-18s are unbeaten this season, with the latter needing a point from their final league game next month to retain their Southern Counties Championship.

Brooke has helped transform the county's fortunes by working closely with the players' clubs, which he felt had been a significant factor.

He said: "They've worked with me because I don't represent a club so there's no threat of taking players away from them. It was a three-year plan, it's worked and now we have to do it again."



AT LAST: Kent celebrate winning their first-ever FA County Youth Cup

FA COUNTY YOUTH CUP WINNERS 2010 AND THEIR CLUBS

1. **JACK RANKIN** – Bromley Academy & Crockenhill
2. **HARRY MORGAN** – Erith & Belvedere
3. **JAKE MARSH** – Dover Athletic
4. **CHARLIE SWEETMAN** – Corinthian
5. **GEORGE MITCHELL** – VCD Athletic
6. **PAT TAYLOR** – Bromley & Balgowan
7. **STEVE BRADING** – Maidstone United
8. **RYAN CROUCHER** – Ashford Borough
9. **SAM CLIFF** – Margate
10. **TOM PHIPPS** – Ebbsfleet United
11. **ALEX FLISHER** – Bearsted & Maidstone Utd
12. **SCOTT HEARD** – Whitstable Town
13. **LUKE PRENTICE** – Margate
14. **ANDREW MILLER** – Dover Athletic
15. **EDDIE SHARMAN** – Ebbsfleet United
16. **ADAM WOOLLCOTT** – Whitstable Town



IN the first of a new series, Motorbase Performance owner **David Bartrum** gives an insight to how the Kent team has prepared for the British Touring Car Championship meeting at Brands Hatch

'Home round is massive'

TO SAY it's been frantic this week is an understatement; we've had to prepare eight cars and staff inside three days for one of our biggest meetings of the year at Brands Hatch this weekend.

After Rockingham last week, we managed to keep the lead in both the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) and the Porsche Carrera Cup, which is fantastic for everyone who has worked so hard this year.

This week has been busy for the team trying to get ready for our home round after back-to-back races. To head there leading both championships has made history for us and is something we really didn't expect.

We are based just down the road from Brands Hatch in Wrotham, but it really hasn't made the task of getting the team ready for this round any easier. Luckily after Rockingham the cars didn't incur too much damage so it has just been a case of turning them around. However, all the guys were working up until late Wednesday night to get everything ready for when we set up camp at Brands Hatch on Thursday. People have been pulling their hair out, but we've done it.

Problem

The touring car situation this year was a roller coaster for a few weeks and at one point we were seriously considering not competing in the championship this year.

Drivers Mat Jackson and Steven Kane came in at the last minute along with sponsors. It meant our entire pre-season test programme was at the media day last month at Brands, all six hours of it. We went into the media day with a team that wasn't fully staffed, because I didn't want to leave people without work. So I'd created a problem, because suddenly we were systems go in all areas. But we were able to add really good people and we've got two good teams.

But we all need to work very hard on sponsorship for the touring car team this weekend, because we've got a lot of empty space on those cars that we need to fill.

Brands Hatch is a massive meeting for us as it is our home round and a chance for us to showcase the team. We can't do anything more than we have done so far though after a win and three podiums in the BTCC.

We want to win everywhere we go. To win at Brands Hatch this afternoon would be very special for the entire team after everything that has happened so far this year.



CELEBRATE: The Motorbase team

Injury returns forcing seamer out of friendly

Fed up Nel set for a back scan



SCAN: Dewald Nel was forced out of a Kent second-team game with a back problem
Picture: JAMES BOARDMAN

DEWALD Nel will be sent for a scan on his troublesome back on Monday after he was forced out of a Kent second-team game in the week with a recurrence of the injury.

The South African born Scotsman played for the 2nd XI in a friendly game against Durham at Beckenham and despite coming through the first innings without any trouble, he pulled up in the second innings after experiencing soreness in his back.

Damage

He will be sent for a scan tomorrow to discover the extent of the damage and both Kent and the player are going to explore other forms of treatment, such as a cortisone injection, as physiotherapy hasn't cured the problem.

"It's still the same little niggle so hopefully I will have a scan on it Monday to see if it's got any better or worse and just to see where we are at," Nel said. "It just doesn't seem to be getting any better so we are beginning to explore other options in terms of the healing side of things, because it's been three weeks of physio now and it's not really doing anything.

By GLENN PEARSON

"I think I need to get direct medical advice from a doctor and the scan should show whether the problem is purely muscle or something else."

It's been a difficult start to his career at St Lawrence after signing for the county during the winter. The back injury, which has been put down to an eight-hour drive from his home in Edinburgh to Canterbury, meant he sat out pre-season fixtures and missed the start of the season. The 30-year-old then had a debut to forget after being smashed for 70 off his eight overs in the six-wicket defeat to Warwickshire last Sunday, before having to leave the field in the second-team game this week.

It's all added to a sense of frustration for a player who is keen to show why the county invested in him by offering a two-year contract.

"I'm getting a little fed up now not being able to partake in anything," he said. "It's highly disappointing to come down to a new job as such and not be able to do it. It's a little bit embarrassing but I suppose at the end of the day nobody intends to get injured.

Nervous

"[Sunday] wasn't the ideal debut, I was a little bit nervous and wanted to show that I was worth a contract and they made the right choice, but it was one of those days where it wasn't meant to be.

"I can't blame the back to be honest, I wouldn't have declared myself fit otherwise if I knew that was going to limit me.

"I'm just trying to focus on getting back out on the field rather than all the negative things."

Youngster Ashley Shaw also had to come off the field in the second-team game after experiencing sore shins and had to be replaced by coach Simon Willis.



BACK: Min Patel has selected Unicorns side

Min lends a hand

FORMER Kent bowler Min Patel returns to the big stage as a coach today as the ECB's Recreational XI starts its campaign in the Clydesdale Bank 40 at The Oval.

The side, known as the Unicorns, comprises a squad of 21 players without first-class contracts which Patel, one of three selectors, helped to narrow down from an initial group of more than 200.

The Unicorns begin their campaign away to Surrey this afternoon before taking on Sussex at Hove tomorrow and Patel is eager to see how the side rises to the occasion.

He said: "The guys have got the chance to perform against counties and see if they can stand up against professionals, day in, day out. They're all here for different reasons – some to see if they can play at that level, and some of the younger guys to put themselves in the shop window."

Competing in group A, the Unicorns will also face Glamorgan, Lancashire, Somerset and Warwickshire, with three Kent-based players aiming to impress. Jahed Ahmed and Zoheb Sharif (both Blackheath) and Thomas Mees (Bromley) all made it through to the final 21.

Joseph's on the road to recovery

FAST bowler Robbie Joseph made an encouraging return to fitness by playing in two second-team games in the week.

The Antiguan-born quick is not expected to be available for today's Sunday League clash with the Durham Dynamos at St Lawrence, but is nearing a return after coming through a limited overs game last weekend and then a four-day fixture in midweek.

Coach Simon Willis has been encouraged by Joseph's gradual improvement, but said he will be assessed on a regular basis before a decision is made about a return with the first-team.

"Like any cricketer you feed off confidence and I think there is a little bit of anxiety there in terms of his shoulder," he said. "That's why I have encouraged guys to let him play cricket because that's the only way he is going to get confidence in his body by playing.

"With any skill you can get fit, but you have got to get bowling-fit. He has done lots of gym work and has been ruthless from that point of view, but bowling is a different type of fitness and until you get the overs in the legs and overs in the body, you are never really sure. The more overs he can get in is a tick in the box and from that he will get confidence in what's coming out of the hand."



FIT: Fast bowler Robbie Joseph is making a good recovery Picture ADY KERRY

South Africa recall is the aim – Ntini

NEW Kent overseas signing Makhaya Ntini is hoping to use his short stint with the county to force a recall to the South Africa side.

The 32-year-old, who is set to make his home debut in the Clydesdale Bank 40 game against Durham today, is the Proteas' second highest wicket taker in Test matches but lost his place in the team during the series with England last winter.

Ntini landed in the country on Monday and is only scheduled to stay with Kent for five weeks, when Sri Lanka spinner Malinga Bandara's deal starts. He arrives with a clear motivation to make the most of the opportunity and is hoping to make a big enough impact in county cricket to prompt an international return.

"Hopefully I can quickly get into a groove and show the selectors I'm still capable of doing a good job and just what they've been missing," he said.

"Without doubt, there is unfinished business for me at international level. I only need 10 more wickets to reach the magical 400 in Test cricket and I am desperate to reach that milestone.

"I will only get another opportunity with South Africa if I perform well with Kent."

Ntini made his Kent debut in the LV= County Championship match against Lancashire at Old Trafford earlier this week, taking 3 for 46 in the first innings. He is set for his first appearance at Canterbury's St Lawrence Ground today.

The seamer has experienced county cricket before after a spell with Warwickshire in 2005 and is delighted to be back.

He said: "I enjoyed my spell with Warwickshire and was keen for another go. Kent have given me that chance and I can't wait to repay their faith."

Play today starts at 1.45pm.

Daish to talk over Fleet future

Boss to decide Stonebridge Road future at meeting with club chiefs

By STEVE TERVET

EBBSFLEET United manager Liam Daish was due to meet with club bosses this week to discuss his future at Stonebridge Road.

The 41-year-old is out of contract this summer, as are the entire playing squad, although the former Republic of Ireland international does have an option of extending his deal for another year.

With the Fleet having suffered relegation on the final day of the season and Daish left with the prospect of Blue Square South football and the demands of putting together a whole new squad in time for the new season, it remains unclear as to whether he would want to put himself through that again.

Daish, who was shorn of almost his entire first-team squad last summer, had to build a team from scratch and spent the first-half of the season playing catch-up. Eventually, that cost Ebbsfleet their place in the division as they finished just one point from safety.

Asked if he wanted to remain in charge at Stonebridge Road, Daish said: "Everything's got to be weighed up, depending on people behind the scenes. I can't answer questions I don't know the answers to."

The Fleet boss was due to meet club chairman Duncan Holt on Thursday night for a discussion about his future, although Holt has already given an indication that he would like the manager to stay.

He said: "Personally speaking, I want Liam to stay on as manager. I don't think he's the reason we are where we are. When you ask someone to start all over again every year, it takes a while to gel the team and when you're playing teams who've been playing together for two or three years, you don't get given that sort of time.

"I think Liam is a great manager and we've got to sort ourselves out rather than looking for scapegoats. I hope he is up for the challenge again next season."

With MyFootballClub membership numbers now down even further, the Fleet's playing budget is expected to be slashed again and Daish faces another huge challenge if he is to guide the club straight back up.

Ebbsfleet will not officially learn which division they will play in next season until early June, with a number of Blue Square Premier clubs in financial difficulties, but Holt has already begun planning for life at a lower level.

"I think this is the biggest gap," he said. "The gap between League Two and the Blue Square Premier is not that big but we'll go and play teams who get 200 or 300 fans, whereas we've been playing teams with crowds of 2,000 to 3,000.

"I hope we can retain players, get a squad together and work out how we want to approach this challenge."



NON-COMMITTAL: Liam Daish says he will decide his future after meeting club bosses



WE'RE BACK: Cray return after nearly 40 years

Long-awaited home return for Wanderers

THE homecoming for Cray Wanderers moves a step closer this summer as the club plays its first game back in St Mary Cray for almost four decades.

Wanderers will play Crockenhill at St Mary Cray Recreation Ground on July 3 as part of the club's 150th anniversary celebrations, with bosses eager to gauge the level of support for the club.

Having spent 10 years as tenants at Bromley's Hayes Lane ground, Cray are aiming to move into a new stadium on Sandy Lane, St Paul's Cray, in 2014.

The Crockenhill game forms part of the Cray Festival Week and Wanderers manager Ian Jenkins admitted this was a special time to manage the world's second-oldest football club.

He said: "It's going to be fantastic – the whole year will be – and I can't wait for it to get started. It will be nice to have the game there, it's been advertised well and it'll give us a good idea of the sort of crowds we could expect there."

Jenkins guided Wanderers to safety in the Ryman Premier this season and while he cannot wait for Cray's return home, he paid tribute to their long-term landlords.

"Fair play to Bromley," he said. "They've done us proud over the last 10 years and our crowds have really picked up.

"We started playing there in front of 80 or 90 and we're now averaging up around 220, which reflects what we're doing on the pitch."

Fewer teams threat to future of league

THE Kent League's Premier Division could feature just 15 teams next season, raising concerns among the remaining clubs about the competition's long-term future.

The division featured 16 sides this season, but with champions Faversham Town promoted and no new sides guaranteed to enter, there could only be 28 league games per club in the next campaign.

It is not a new problem for the division, which has reduced in size largely as a result of its own success. Maidstone, Ramsgate and Whitstable are among a host of recent champions to move up to the Ryman South and not look back.

John Bathurst, chairman at Herne Bay, admitted it was a worry.

He said: "The league won't fold but it will make a mockery of it. Probably the biggest concern is next year. If either Herne Bay or Hythe go for promotion – and I'm sure they will – you could have 14 and it's untenable to have a league like that."

Colin Page, chairman at Norton Sports, agreed.

He said: "It's very difficult, but you are concerned because of the decline and the ramifications it could have in the long term."

The division could yet have a new team in August, with Bexleyheath side Phoenix Sports potentially able to come up from the County League below. They are the only club to have applied for promotion and still have a chance of finishing in the top two, but they do not have floodlights and are awaiting planning permission.

Holmesdale faced a similar situation three years ago and were let in, but it was on the proviso lights would be granted. Progress would need to be made by Phoenix before the County League's AGM next month, but it is all dependent on whether the club, which began the weekend fifth, can win their games in hand to finish in the top two.

Denise Richmond, league chairman, acknowledged having 15 clubs was far from ideal, but has no alternative until the long-awaited step six division is introduced as a bridge between the County and Kent leagues.

She said: "We haven't got a choice. It doesn't matter what I can say, we can't magic a team up.

"I think it's an issue competitively for the clubs, they would want more teams. In the bigger picture this stresses the need for pushing step six because the gap between steps five and seven are so wide."

Step six will not happen until the 2011/12 campaign at the earliest. To help make up for the reduction in games the Kent League plans to discuss altering the structure of their cup competitions as a temporary measure.



ON THE UP: Faversham departed the Kent League, leaving the division with 15 teams

Cavaday excels on clay for title victory

NAOMI Cavaday enjoyed a happy birthday as she lifted her second successive AEGON British Tour title last weekend.



The British number five celebrated turning 21 by beating Anna Fitzpatrick 6-3, 6-0 in the final at Bournemouth.

She dropped just 13 games in four matches, all of which were won in straight sets.

It added to the Sidcup-born player's encouraging start to the season and was her second victory on the British Tour in as many months. Cavaday also won the event in Sutton, where she won her matches with a degree of comfort.

The win on clay in Bournemouth provided ideal preparation ahead of qualifyng for the French Open later this month.

Gs await penalty

GRAVESEND Rugby Club are yet to learn what punishment they face for forfeiting last Saturday's RFU Champions Cup game away to Staines.

Unable to field the required number of front-row players the Gs pulled out of the quarter-final tie and Staines were awarded the win.

The club could be docked 10 points for the start of next season – their first in National 3 London & South East – but the Kent RFU have written to the Rugby Football Union in support of Gravesend, who may get away with a reprimand.



Paffett off to a flyer

GARY Paffett opened the new DTM season with a comfortable win at Germany's Hockenheim circuit last Sunday.

The 29-year-old McLaren Formula One test driver from Bromley led home an impressive weekend for Mercedes who took first to fourth place from the race. The victory has signaled his intent to claim a second DTM title after finishing runner-up last season.

Paffett leads the championship ahead of the second round at Spain's Valencia circuit on May 23. He will return to home circuit Brands Hatch on September 9.



Tulloch tip for top

COURTNEY Tulloch may have missed out on last week's European Gymnastics Championships, but he remains on course to reach the top of his sport.

The 14-year-old, who trains at Bearsted's Pegasus Gymnastics Club, is targeting a place in Great Britain's team for the 2012 Europeans and Pegasus director Fef Griffin believes his exclusion this time will stand him in good stead.

She said: "There are aspects of Courtney's work which made him worth considering for the team but his long-term development is more important to us and our focus has always been 2012."

Stones may have to pay £100,000 c-Ash-back

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown will hold crunch talks next week with major investor Oliver Ash.

The property developer sunk £100,000 into the club two years ago as part of a plan to help bring the nomadic club back to the county town. At the time the club were optimistic of securing a grant from the Football Foundation to construct a 3,000 capacity ground, but the subsequent bid failed.

With no progress made in the interim, Ash is now keen to recoup his investment. Bowden-Brown confirmed it was the reason for next Friday's meeting, but at this stage it is unclear whether Ash's money has been spent – although the chairman did say it had been "invested in the club" – and, if so, how the Stones could raise £100,000 to pay him back.

The United chairman, who owns a 49 per cent stake in the club, remains committed but raised the possibility he could step down, although it is thought Ash does not want to succeed him.

Bowden-Brown said: "When Oliver invested in the club it was written into the agreement that he would be entitled to his £100,000 back if the club had not achieved the progress desired. He is entitled to his money back, whether it means I will leave the club, then so be it."

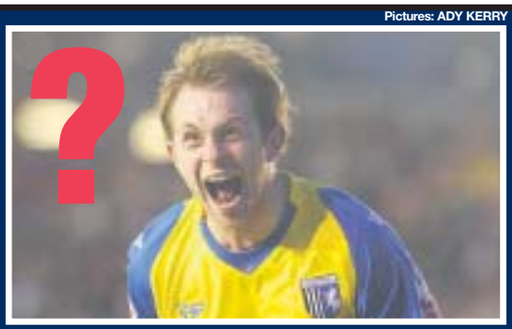


MONEY TALKS: Paul Bowden-Brown

Pictures: ADY KERRY







DECISION TIME: (l-r) Garry Richards should get a new contract at Priestfield, Andy Pugh (above) hasn't played a first-team game all season, while Stuart Lewis' future is uncertain

DEAL OR NO DEAL?

Crunch time for Gills players out of contract

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

MARK Stimson has decided which Gillingham players he intends to offer contracts this summer, but warned they may have to accept lower wages to stay at Priestfield.

Half the first-team squad's deals expire in the next few weeks, but as with last season, no renewal talks will begin until the club know which division they will be competing in come August.

The one exception is skipper Barry Fuller, who has a deal on the table but has yet to sign.

Stimson has made it clear in recent weeks all the players still had a chance to prove themselves worthy of a new deal. Now the opportunity has passed, with the Gills boss clear over who he wants to keep and who will be shown the door.

Some, like Garry Richards and Tom Wynter, can be confident of having talks while others, such as Luis Cumbers and Andy Pugh, who have not made a first-team appearance this season, may need to consider their options.

Much depends on whether the club can avoid relegation and stay in League One this season, but even if they stay up Stimson is clear the strict budget will remain.

"At the end of it all it's going to be down to finances," he said. "Someone might be offered a deal from us, but they might be able to get a better deal somewhere else with more security.

"I think my mind's made up now on the players and one or two might decide to go somewhere else because of deals we might put to them. That's up to them; we'll do what's right for the club.

"One or two have given themselves a better chance, but at the end of the day it's going to be down to deals. Some are on good deals now and they might not be offered such a good deal. They might not be expecting that, so it will be interesting."



AN EYE ON WHO? Gills boss Mark Stimson has made his mind up about who to keep

OUT OF CONTRACT

GARRY RICHARDS
TOM WYNTER
DENNIS OLI
BARRY FULLER
MARK BENTLEY
ADAM MILLER
STUART LEWIS
CHRIS DICKSON *
RASHID YUSSUFF
JAMES WALKER
SIMON ROYCE
LUIS CUMBERS
ANDY PUGH
JACOB ERSKINE

*On loan from Charlton

It could be a recurring theme this summer, and not just at Gillingham. The days of lengthy contracts dished out by clubs lower down the Football League are largely a thing of the past as the game struggles to manage its debts in a tough economic climate.

After years of players steadily strengthening their control over negotiations, the balance of power is shifting back towards clubs due to the increasing number of free agents looking for clubs every summer.

Stimson believes he will be operating from a position of strength in talks with his players, which could give them greater value for money than in the past.

He said: "I think clubs now are really in the driving seat because so many players out there are available. This summer will be a good one for clubs to put contracts over to players that might not be as secure as before. The only way to get that [security] is hopefully by doing what they love doing the most, by playing football matches. If I had been able to do that on a couple of deals here I'd have been laughing now, but we haven't."

One example of the changing pattern is John Nutter. The full-back was a virtual ever-present last season but was only guaranteed a one-year contract, plus the incentive of another season if he played a specified number of games in this campaign.

Another consistent year has seen Nutter surpass the target, triggering the additional clause. Such conditions, including 'pay as you play' deals for old or injury-prone players, are not new but are becoming more widespread.

Stimson admitted the stipulations are not always popular, but felt it does keep players on their toes.

He said: "It was a challenge for John and he's passed it, so fair play to him. It was a good challenge, he had to get in the team to get the quota."



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